# THE LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Arts, and Sciences.

No. 1803.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1851.

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## LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1851.

#### REVIEWS.

Indian Missions in Guiana. By the Rev. W. H. Brett. Bell.

THE name of Guiana in connexion with missions is not new to British literature. Many of our readers will remember the memorable debate in the House of Commons in 1824, on the missionary Smith, when Wilberforce made his last great appearance before retiring into private life, when Sir James Mackintosh spoke with unusual power and brilliancy, and Henry Brougham delivered one of his noblest orations on civil and religious liberty. Although Canning and the ministry persuaded the House to pass the thing over, it was universally felt that a great moral victory had been gained, and that debate went far to swell the tide of public feeling against slavery and in favour of negro emancipation. It was then that Mackintosh, after describing the persecution of Smith by the planters, to whose cruelty he had fallen a victim, quoted with much effect Johnson's line-

"But English vengeance wars not with the dead." "It is not so, however, in Demerara." Not satisfied with persecuting their victim to the death, he told how the planters heaped upon the departed martyr every insult, and tore up, with threats of vengeance, a frail wooden memorial which the affection of the negroes had planted on his grave. A great improvement has taken place in the colony during the lapse of the last quarter of a century. A scene of such cowardice and cruelty has long since been impossible. The civilizing influence of religion has extended widely over both the white and coloured population, and the crimes and wrongs referred to in that debate are matters of past history. Of this improved state of feeling the volume before us presents many proofs and illustrations. Among the strangely mixed population, European, African, and Asiatic, (many Coolies having been brought to the colony since the negro eman-

found in our colonies.

But the main object of Mr. Brett's book is to describe the native American Indians of Guiana, and the missions among their various tribes in connexion with one of our religious societies. Mr. Brett was exclusively employed in the instruction of these Indians, and in the present volume are recorded the observations and experiences of many years' labour among them. Recommending all who are interested in the special object of Mr. Brett's labours to study his narrative, a few extracts will show that the book is full of interest also to the general reader, as descriptive of the Indian

cipation,) ideas of British order, justice, and

freedom, are made to prevail, together with

as much virtue and piety as will usually be

races, and the country which they inhabit.

Guiana is a country of great extent, forming the north-eastern part of South America between the Amazon and the Orinoco. It is divided into British and Dutch Guiana or Surinam. The former includes an area of 76,000 square miles, a surface of much greater extent than that of England and Wales. It is only a narrow strip of land, the edge of the alluvial soil which forms the coast, that is in cultivation, or at all thickly inhabited. The interior is as yet unoccupied, except by the thinly-scattered population of the aboriginal natives:—

"The rivers of British Guiana afford a means of communication with the interior. They are, in

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fact, the only means, as the dense forest which covers the country is only crossed at present by the foot-track of the Indian. In order to get at the various tribes, it is necessary to ascend these streams. The largest is the Essequibo, which, including its windings, is more than 600 miles in length, and receives the waters of several very large tributary streams. To the eastward of this are the Demerara, the Berbice, and the Corentyn, with several smaller streams. The main rivers take their rise in the mountains of the interior, near the equator, and form magnificent cataracts and rapids as they descend to the level of the sea. A number of islands beautify these large rivers, which are very broad at the mouth, the estuary of the Corentyn being ten miles across, and that of the Essequibo nearly twenty. To the westward of Essequibo are the Pomeroon, Moruca, Waini, Barima, and other rivers of various sizes, which serve to drain the large tract of country lying between the cultivated part of the coast and the delta of the Orinoco. This district may be described as an immense swamp, intersected by a few ridges of sand-hills, and abounding in lakes and what are called 'wet savannahs.' These are large open tracts of country, covered with reeds and rushes, and entirely overspread during the wet seasons with water, which drains off in dry weather. Some of these are studded with small islands, which are covered with stately trees; while clusters of the eta-palm grow in the swamp itself, on spots of land somewhat higher than the rest. These, with their fan-like leaves and trunks which resemble stone columns, render very beautiful a scene which would otherwise be dreary and desolate.

There are many fine descriptions of scenery, especially of the wonders of vegetable and animal life in the forests, but with these most readers are familiar, through the works of Humboldt and other tropical travellers. Pass we, therefore, to some of Mr. Brett's sketches of Indian life and manners:—

"The appearance of the Indian in his natural state is not unpleasing when the eye has become accustomed to his scanty attire. He is smaller in size than either the European or the negro, nor does he possess the bodily strength of either of these. Few of his race exceed five feet five inches in height, and the greater number are much shorter. They are generally well-made; many are rather stout in proportion to their height, and it is very rare to see a deformed person among them. Their colour is a copper tint, pleasing to the eye; and the skin, where constantly covered from the sun, is little darker than that of the natives of southern Europe. Their hair is straight and coarse, and continues perfectly black till an advanced period of life. The eyes are black and piercing, and generally slant upwards a little towards the temple, which would give an unpleasant expression to the face, were it not relieved by the sweet expression of the mouth. The forehead generally recedes, though in a lesser degree than in the African; there is, however, much difference in this respect, and in some individuals it is well-formed and prominent. Three of the tribes, the Arawak, Waran, and Caribi, may be found residing close together, and they have done so for at least three centuries, and yet no intermixture seems to have taken place in their respective languages. They are of decidedly different origin, and remain distinct. These three tribes, with the Wacawoios, have been the principal objects of missionary labour. The first of these, the Arawak, is the most numerous, and the least barbarous of all the tribes near the coast. Their settlements are scattered in an extended line within a hundred miles of the sea, from the Orinoco to the Marowini. The names by which they designate the Supreme Being are beautifully simple. They call him Wacinaci (our Father), Wamurettikwonci (our Maker), and Aimun Kondi (the dweller on high). Their sorcerers are called Semicici, and the evil principle Tauhahu."

Of the other tribes, the Warau chiefly inhabit the delta of the Orinoco, and thence towards Pomeroon. The Caribi, formerly so flame, devouring everything in its progress."

famous in history, are rapidly diminishing in number and importance. Seven or eight hundred may include the whole tribe. Their settlements are in the interior, and much scattered. The Wacawoios are the most wandering of all the race. Their language most resembles the Caribisi. Another tribe, the Macusi, occupy the open savannahs in the remotest interior. Schomburgk estimated their number at about 3000. It is supposed that a small lake, called Amucu, in their territory, is the classic site of El Dorado and the lake of Parima. Humboldt says, that the islets and rocky shores of the lake are formed of mica-slate and tale, by which the rays of the sun being reflected, gave the appearance of buildings overlaid with plates of beaten gold. At this place a mission station was established, which was meeting with much success when the Brazilian government interfered, and, laying claim to the territory, dispersed the people. Mr. Brett saw at Georgetown, in 1840, many of the Macusi in company with Mr. Youd, the expelled missionary, whose fortunes the grateful Indians had resolved to share, and in whose service they remained with reverential attachment.

The hardships undergone by the missionaries are great, and their adventures many. In one journey, Mr. Brett writes—

"We had to take up our quarters for the night on the banks of Manawarin. Our shelter was but imperfect, consisting of a small flat roof of manicole leaves, just sufficient to cover two hammocks. The Indians made large fires, and suspended their ham-mocks between the trees. This is the best protector from wild animals and reptiles, which abound in that dense forest. A loud splash was occasionally heard in the water, which the Indians said was caused by the plunging of a small alligator. About midnight it began to rain heavily, and I was soon so wet from the water which dripped through the roof, as to be compelled to rise, and stand till morning. The Indians were likewise wet, and with difficulty managed to shelter one of the fires, so as to keep it from being extinguished. The sound of the heavy dropping of the rain from the leaves and branches was only varied by the occasional falling of some large seed-pod from the tall trees. All seemed uncomfortable, except my friend Thomas, who had contrived to fix one of our umbrellas, so as to keep his body dry. A little negro boy had been admitted to share this shelter, and lay in the hammock fast asleep, with his black woolly head on the red bosom of the good-natured Indian."

Sometimes dangerous droughts occur, as once from August, 1845, to May of the following year. The rainy season usually commences in November; but that year there were only a few partial showers, and the earth was parched, and vegetation dried up:—

"During the height of this drought, Waramuri Mission was in danger of being destroyed by fire. The swamp in front of it was then covered with dry vegetation, and the trees which had been cut down a year before. A Caribi Indian incautiously set fire to this, and the flames soon began to rise, and spread with rapidity, covering a space a quarter of a mile in extent, and advancing towards the mission. As soon as the alarm was given, Mr. Nowers and the Indians present ran to clear away the dried grass and brushwood which covered the slope, that the fire might have nothing to feed upon. It reached the foot of the hill, and as it began to climb in any place, it was beaten down with long poles. The heat was suffocating, and both the missionary and the Indians were blackened by the smoke; but after a severe struggle with the devouring element, by God's blessing on their exertions, the buildings were saved. At four P.M., the fire rushed over the hill about thirty feet from the chapel, and passed on in a broad sheet of

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Manifold are the annoyances and dangers from the animal creation, from tormenting insects to the devouring jaguar, or South American panther. Once, during the daytime, not half a mile from the mission station where Mr. Brett was, a jaguar advanced towards two men who were cutting wood, and, undeterred by their shouts, and even by billets and an axe, which they threw at him, was preparing for a spring, when they ran into their hut for a gun, upon which the beast, probably expecting they would be reinforced, made off. At another place, a solitary Indian, wearied with paddling, landed on the bank of the river Arapiaco, tied up his hammock, and slept. Next day his half-devoured remains were found by a party who chanced to pass.

Amidst the varied trials and dangers to which missionaries are exposed, they are not without much to cheer and reward their toil. In many places the customs of heathenism have given place to knowledge and good conduct, and the schools and places of worship are numerously and regularly attended. The Indians generally regard their religious teachers with respect and affection. Mr. Brett's volume contains many pleasing proofs of the success with which the missionary efforts have been crowned. Among the recorded fruits of their labours, not the least interesting is the account of the sympathy felt, and the collections made amidst the wild savannahs of Pomeroon for the sufferers in Ireland and Scotland during the last famine. A grateful instance of hearty affection is mentioned in describing an unexpected visit to a remote station of Caribs. "They heard the sound of the paddles far off at night, lights were seen hurrying to and fro, and on reaching the place about a hundred men and women were pressing to shake hands, and every one was disappointed who did not get hold of some little article from the canoe to carry up to the house.'

But, without quoting or referring further to particular instances, we may sum up our estimate, both of the requirements and results of these Indian missions, in the words of the bishop of the diocese in a recent report:-

"In many parts of Guiana we still can only meet the roving Indian, travelling more like one of the brute creation than an intellectual being; but where the message of salvation has been heard and felt, there, as if by a charm, civilization with its attendant graces immediately succeeds."

A Selection of Synonyms. Edited by Archbishop Whately. John W. Parker and Son. Some years ago the friends of a young man, who had greatly distinguished himself at Cambridge, and was intended for the bar, consulted Lord Brougham about his future studies. "Let him study 'Johnson's Dictionary," were the first words of his Lordship's reply; "let him read 'Johnson's Dictionary' over and over from begining to end; I have done so; let him get it by heart, if he can, quotations and all." The subject of that consultation, after a few brilliant appearances as a public speaker, devoted himself to literature, and is now one of the most popular writers of the day. We do not know whether the advice was followed, or how much the study of Johnson has conduced to the formation of that style which charms every reader of Macaulay's Essays and History; but the reply of Lord Brougham, the substance of which we believe we have correctly given, is highly characteristic, and explains to us

something of his own surprising mastery of language. The greatest fault of Lord Brougham's diction, however, in writing, and still more in speaking, is a redundant copious-ness of expression. The language is apt to be cumulative, without the argument also being so. Often, for instance, many epithets are used where one would have sufficed, and the thoughts generally seem to be expressed in as many words as a quick imagination and ready memory could at the occasion lay hold of. Hence, there is often a nebula of indistinctness surrounding and dimming the clear nucleus of speech and of thought. The study in early life of some book of Synonyms, along with 'Johnson's Dictionary,' would have saved from this fault of style. For highest success, force as well as fluency of speech is required; and next to powerful mastery of language is the cultivation of correctness and precision in our expressions. It is to facilitate this study that the present work is prepared. A book of Synonyms, edited by Archbishop Whately, and of which a judge so competent says, that "though far from presuming to call it perfect, he is con-fident it is very much the best that has appeared on the subject,"requires from us notice, as likely to exert some influence in literature.

The groups of Synonyms in this volume are divided according to the parts of speech -viz. into particles, nouns, adjectives, and verbs. There are altogether about four hundred and fifty words explained or illustrated, with what correctness and ability one or two examples will show:-

" Graceful, Elegant.

"Grace is in great measure a natural gift; elegance implies cultivation, or something of a more artificial character. A rustic uneducated girl may be graceful; but an elegant woman must be accomplished and well trained. It is the same with things as with persons; we talk of a graceful tree, but of an elegant house or other building. Animals may be graceful, but they cannot be elegant. The movements of a kitten, or a young fawn, are full of grace; but to call them elegant animals would be absurd. Lastly, 'elegant' may be applied to mental qualifications, which 'graceful' never can. Elegance must always imply something that is made or invented by man. An imitation of nature is not called so; therefore we do not speak of an 'elegant picture,' though we do of an elegant pattern for a gown, an elegant piece of work. The general rule is, that elegance is the characteristic of art, and grace of nature.'

We have an Irish friend, whose misapplication of words frequently amuses us, and to whom we read the foregoing quotation the other evening on his applying the term 'elegant' to a part of a lady's figure with which art has little to do. He admitted the incorrectness; but maintained, that even in speaking of things acquired by art, graceful is sometimes used, and elegant of things natural -e.g. the lady of whom we were speaking has 'an elegant foot,' and is 'a graceful dancer.' The remark was just, and proves that there are exceptions to the general use of the words, as characteristic the one of art, the other of nature :-

" Gaiety, Liveliness, Animation, Viracity. "'Liveliness' and 'gaiety' are, perhaps, the nearest to each other in meaning amongst this group; but there is this great difference between them, that 'gaiety' refers more to a temporary state or mood of mind, - 'liveliness' more to the habitual disposition and character. 'Gaiety' is applied by metonymy to those things which are supposed to excite it, such as amusement and dissipation; while liveliness is seldom applied to designate anything but character. 'Animation'

appears at first sight to resemble 'liveliness: but it is, in fact, different. Both literally signify 'alive,' but imply it in different senses. An animated person is eager and easily excited; a lively person is light, gay-spirited, cheerful. 'Vivacity' is something between 'liveliness' and animation;' it is less frequently used, being rather recently adopted from the French. In French, it has come to mean something more like 'hot-tempered.'"

The transference of words similar in sound, but different in sense, from one language to another, gives rise to many blunders. We remember hearing Louis Philippe spoken of by an Englishman as a man 'très sensible,' a description which caused surprise, and to which a Frenchman replied, that he thought him a man of good nerve and courage, a character which, through most of his reign, certainly belonged to him, as well as the good sense intended by the Anglo-French epithet. A French divine, in addressing the general assembly of the Scottish Church at its last meeting, said, that "he felt timidity in addressing so many barren and venerable heads." We do speak sometimes of baldness of style, when barren of sufficient fulness and grace; but the cross use of the words, when baldness in its honourable connexion with age was displaced by a term less complimentary, caused considerable amusement.

One other example we give of adjectives of kindred meaning:-

" Pleasing, Agreeable, Pleasant.

"'Pleasing' is generally applied to manners and personal appearance. 'Agreeable' is used in a more extended sense: when applied to manners and conversation, it differs from 'pleasing,' and means rather clever and entertaining, than winning and attractive. Many persons are 'agreeable' who are not 'pleasing;' and a 'pleasing' person may not have sufficient spirit or variety of conversation to constitute him 'agreeable.' 'Pleasing' refers more to the person himself; 'agreeable' to the impression made on others. 'Pleasant' was formerly used to describe merry and playful conversation, or a jocose and lively person; now it is in a great measure withdrawn from persons and applied to things—to weather, scenery, situations, &c. 'Plea-santry' is a relic of the old meaning. The French plaisant has changed all in a reverse way. Formerly it meant what we now call pleasant, as may be seen from the 'Lament of Mary Queen of Scots-

Adieu, plaisant pays de France! Now, it has come to mean, as it did formerly with us, 'funny' or 'jocose.''

The different use, in different languages, of words from the same root, suggests many thoughts illustrative of national manners and habits of thought:-

"Who could expect to see words so nearly the same differ so widely in meaning as our English word altered (changed), the French alteré (overheated or thirsty), and the Italian alterato (angry): and then again our English word alternative choice between two courses), and the Spanish alternatira (the social circle in which a person moves); all these different words springing from the Latin alter (another)! Who would suppose that the same word, the French defendre, should signify to 'defend' and 'to forbid?' or that one word, honesty (honnéteté), should imply civility in France and probity in England; and another (virtus), valour in Latin, and excellence in the arts in Italian!

Until the present little volume appeared, a good selection of Synonyms was a desideratum. Crabbe's work was the best and most satisfactory with which we were acquainted, and it had become rather antiquated. Language is always undergoing changes, so that many words once considered classical are now obsolete, and new terms, or uses of terms, are continually adopted:-

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ed, a sideand e acantigoing dered ns, or "Our question is not what ought to be, or formerly was, the meaning of a word, but what it now is; nor can we be completely guided by quotations from Shakspeare or Milton, or even from Addison or Johnson. The standard we shall refer to in the present work, is the sense in which a word is used by the purest writers and most correct speakers of our own days."

In this object we think the author has generally been successful; and the book will be found valuable either for private reference

or for public educational use.

Handbook of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy. By Dionysius Lardner, D.C.L.

Taylor, Walton, and Maberly. THERE are numerous steps in the ladder of science, from the accomplished mathematician who sits on the top, and reads mechanics in the Treatise of Poisson, to the child who sits on the lowest round, and learns them by rote from the catechism of Pinnock. The higher branches of pure and mixed mathe-matics—without which no one can become a master of natural philosophy-must always be a mystery to the mass of the world. Few have the leisure, the patience, and the talent to unravel their intricacies. The rest must be content with popular works, which are a passport to the spacious and lofty vestibule, but not to the inner shrine. It is a weakness to despise a portion because it is not the whole. The heavens are worth scanning with the naked eye, though the telescope brings new glories into view. But even popular science is a house of many stories, where the azy visitor gets no further than the ground floor, while the inquisitive makes his way to the attics. The guide-books have been adapted to the persons who use them, and some describe a single apartment, some a few of the simplest and most attractive objects, and some conduct us over the entire edifice. The admirable 'Eléments de Physique Expérimentale et de Météorologie' of Pouillet may be taken as a type of the completest of the treatises which can be designated popular. The principles of natural philosophy, and the experiments and reasoning by which they are established, are not only stated in their utmost ngour, but mathematical formulæ, - easy enough to those who know the alphabet of agebraical analysis,—are freely used when minary language is unequal to the purpose. In France, where mathematics are studied more extensively than with us, this is the model upon which the elements of physics are almost invariably composed, and it has been opied in England by Dr. Golding Bird, in his well-known 'Elements of Natural Philo-We wish we could say it had been opied with success. The merits of his book which are very considerable—are not in the parts which involve an acquaintance with hematics, and the deeper he gets, the more evident it becomes that he is walking on tiptoe. Numerous errors are the necessary conequence. When he ceases to have an indeendent knowledge of the road, and is directed the track of previous footsteps, he often mistakes the marks; and if the guide has hanced to slip from inadvertence, the follower Sweeping objections are sometimes ande to the introduction of mathematics at for individuals are apt to fancy themselves world, and to judge everything by its deptation to their private capacities. These deptation forget that there are many publics; the there is a last there are many publics; there is a large one, increasing daily, thich is no longer content with a little Euclid

and Algebra; and that such persons, having learnt to shoot with a rifle, are not to be condemned to throw bullets with the hand. A second class of books, which assume nothing beyond the simplest geometrical elements, and in which entertaining illustrations are nevertheless made subordinate to the principles of science, supply the wants of the unmathematical world. Of this description is Dr. Young's 'Lectures on Natural Philosophy,' of which a new edition, revised by Mr. Kelland, a gentleman deeply versed in physics, was published in 1845. The lectures, both in matter and style, bear the stamp of the original genius of the author. Every statement has evidently been thought out for himself, and he presents it in the most exact and unpretending language. It is a relief to turn from the shallowprofound, the parrot-repetitions, the verbiage and the foppery, so common in manuals of science, to the masculine simplicity, the philosophic precision, and unaffected depth of this great man. His brevity would render him obscure to beginners. He was one of those sagacious persons to whom a word was enough, and he dealt with others as he would be done by. The impatient and the idle who want to run and read would quickly close the book; the serious student who reads and thinks would thumb it to rags. For volatile minds, who can only swallow the easy parts of science, and who strain at a difficulty, there must be a third class of books; and the best work in this department, if it was completed and revised, would probably be Dr. Arnott's 'Elements of Physics.' In mechanics and optics he merely scratches the surface. His object has been to illustrate, by a profusion of familiar facts, the portions of natural philosophy which are within the sphere of our common conceptions, which are understood as soon as told, and which a person of ordinary capacity might read sitting upon a green bank, in a sunny day, and not find that they ruffled the placid mood congenial to the scene. He has been very happy in the choice of his materials, and they are set off by a lively style, which suits the popular nature of the facts. His error, the reverse of Dr. Young's, is, to be much too long. He takes an ell to tell what could be explained in an inch with equal clearness and far greater force. Nor has he been sufficiently careful to show the connexion between the principles and the particulars which exemplify them. They are both there, but each is separate; whereas it is necessary to put the hat upon the head. Nobody would complain that Dr. Arnott was too abstruse, but many would think his book too bulky, and for these there are a legion of catechisms and epitomes, which make a fourth class in the literature of popular science. A few are put together by competent persons; the mass are monuments of the ignorance and impudence of their compilers. People who were sitting yesterday at the feet of Gamaliel, stand up to-morrow in Gamaliel's place, and lecture the world. A child which has fired off a sixpenny cannon is nearly as competent to write a treatise on gunnery, or, having cut out a boat with a penknife, to discourse upon ship-building. Outlines of science, with a score, perhaps, of blunders, are bought and believed, because the led are rather more blind than the leaders. Everybody must have observed in the general run of mankind that weakness ascribed by Pope to Curll, the bookseller, in the satirical relation of his pretended conversion to the Jewish religion: "They then talked to him in the Hebrew tongue, which he not understanding, it was observed,

had very great weight with him." Among the Curlls of the world a small stock of science will answer the purpose of Hebrew gibberish, and enable a dunce to pass for a sage. The evil has risen to a vast height, and it is either to be wished that the tutors were more competent, or the purils less decile.

petent, or the pupils less docile. Dr. Lardner's 'Handbook' belongs to the second class of the productions we have described. Natural philosophy is growing in favour. Well-informed gentlemen, boys at school, undergraduates at the university, students in law and medicine, engineers, architects, and mechanics, all acquire a general knowledge of physical truths. A majority of these have little geometry, and are utterly ignorant of the rules of analysis. They need a work which, avoiding mathematics, shall carry them as far as they can go without that powerful instrument, which, taking for granted that they are in earnest, shall state principles with rigour, and which, presuming them to be thinking beings, shall introduce what must now and then task the understanding. This is what Dr. Lardner has accomplished, and nothing less was to be expected from his high reputation and former success. His explanations are fuller than Dr. Young's, his illustrations more popular, and his accuracy not in-ferior. In a word, he has a mastery over his subject, and what he knows thoroughly he communicates clearly. It is no small merit in this admirable expositor of elementary science, that he has resisted the prevailing tendency to indulge in fanciful theories. A principle in science is of the utmost importance. It is the thread which conducts Theseus through the labyrinth of Minos. But to be useful it must be real. The history of science has shown that vague guesses are entirely worthless, that they differ as much from solid demonstrations as the dreams of the night from our waking experience. The ways of nature are not according to our premature inferences, and though a would-bephilosopher may, if he pleases, blow bubbles for his amusement, they never float far before they burst and vanish. Another vice, which seems now on the decline, has found no favour from Dr. Lardner-the ambition to deck out science in pompous words and fustian declamation. The graces of natural philosophy

When unadorned, adorned the mostand while the author of the eloquent treatise expects that his cloudy sentences will almost tempt the reader to cry out "Hear, hear," the reader is complaining that he asked for bread and has been given stones. Dr. Lardner thinks like a philosopher, but he writes like a man. He knows that his business is to explain—that anybody is competent to make easy things difficult, but that the true art is, by vivid conceptions and simple language, to make difficult things easy. A student hungry for knowledge wants as much as possible of the fruit and the least that is possible of the rind. This 'Handbook,' then, is an honest addition to our scientific literature. It is not the hasty production of a man who has been skimming the surface of the pool, and fingering the hem of the garment, but the matured production of an accomplished mathematician, who has devoted his life to the study of physics, who has soared high and dived deep, who has traversed the rough places as well as the smooth, and than whom there can be no safer and more intelligent guide through those pleasant paths which belong to popular science.

are all severe-

The Kaleidoscope of Anecdotes and Aphorisms. Collected by Catherine Sinclair. Bentley. THERE was truth as well as satire in Swift's remark to an author, that with an empty head and full common-place book, he might come forth a giant of learning and talent. It is at least certain that considerable information may be got from a collection of extracts; and such works as the one before us will always be welcome to a large class, who had rather profit by the industry of others than exert their own. To compress much matter into a little space is, indeed, a great recommendation in an age when everybody is in a hurry, and when leisure and inclination are alike wanting for folios, quartos, or even bulky octavos. The shilling volumes of railway literature constructed just to last out our journey-suit best with the times, in which if a book is to be read, it must add this to its other merits, that it can be read quickly. Brevity and despatch take their places among the cardinal virtues, and we ought to see nothing unreasonable in the note of Thiers to a gentleman at the Treasury:- "My dear Sir,-Would you give a short quarter of an hour to explain to me the financial system of your country?' Though these compilations are made with the scissors, and not with the pen, it is not everybody who can use even scissors with judgment. While enjoying the flowers, we are apt to forget that those who plucked them traversed a vast deal of ground to collect materials for the nosegay, that they had to cull them with discretion and to arrange them with skill. Authors themselves conspire to foster in us this contempt for their labour. Whatever pains and anxiety they may be at in the prosecution of their task, they conceal them from the public, and preface the productions for which they have "scorned de-lights and lived laborious days," with expressions of cheerful carelessness, as though the soil were as rich as that commemorated by Mark Tapley, where "public buildings grew spontaneous." But whatever industry is bestowed upon a work like the present, it can never be thought perfect. The anecdote which is novel to this person will be trite to that. What seems trivial to Graveairs will draw a smile from Genial, and while complaining that some things are not put in, we shall equally find fault because others are not left out. Such is the necessary result of the infinite diversities of taste and knowledge, but whoever renews his intercourse with old friends, and makes acquaintance with fresh ones, will not deny Miss Sinclair the credit of having brought together an agreeable company, though we could gladly dispense with the presence of a few of the guests, and though we miss some loved and familiar faces. Portions of the compilation, however, bear the marks of haste and of defective judgment. Some of the passages are printed twice. Some have the names of the authors appended, and others have not; some are curtailed, and the part cut off is unhappily the point, and others are cast in a new mould and a worse. But with every abatement, the 'Kaleidoscope' does not belie its name, and those who peep into it will find abundance of pretty patterns and brilliant colours-of wise saws to make them better, and witty sayings to make them gay. It is a book to keep on a drawing-room table, to be read by snatches, in those crumbs of time that so few gather up. It is thus that the contents will be most enjoyed and best remembered, for a rapid succession of maxims and repartees is infinitely wearisome.

These spirituous liquors must be taken, in short, by sips; they may then, perhaps, with many create a further thirst, and send them to drink more deeply at the spring. A few specimens given here may answer the same purpose-may send our readers to the 'Kaleidoscope,' as the 'Kaleidoscope,' we hope, will send them to the source. But we must first show, by a single example, that we complain with reason that Miss Sinclair is occasionally careless. "A gentleman," she tells us, "of rather undomestic habits, being asked his intentions about marrying a young lady whom he greatly admired, hesitated some moments, and answered, "but where should I spend my evenings?" Compare with this vapid and witless version the genuine story as told by Sidney Smith: "A gentleman at Paris, who lived very unhappily with his wife, used, for twenty years together, to pass his evenings at the house of another lady who was very agreeable. His wife died, and his friends advised him to marry the lady in whose society he had found so much pleasure. 'Certainly not,' he said, 'for then I should have nowhere to spend my evenings." The humour of the reply depends wholly upon the circumstances omitted by Miss Sinclair. There is the same difference between the stories as between the joyous hours passed by the gentleman when a guest, and the dull evenings he expected to spend when the lively lady was transformed into a humdrum wife.

Few men said more good things than Voltaire. Speaking of the injury to composition of an excess of adjectives, he remarked that they were the worst enemies of the nouns, though they agreed in gender, number, and case. Some of his satirical definitions are admirable. "When he who hears understands nothing, and he who speaks understands no better-that is metaphysics." "A physician is an unfortunate gentleman expected every day to perform a miracle—namely, to reconcile health with intemperance." Adrian VI. regarded the faculty as a wholesome and effective check upon population. He would have relished the greeting which the doctor received from a friend who met him walking at the head of a funeral-" Well, doctor, you are going home, I see, with your work.

"When it was remarked in company how very liberally those persons talk of what their neighbours should give away, who are least apt to give any themselves, Sidney Smith replied, 'Yes, no sooner does A. fall into difficulties than B. begins to consider what C. should do for him.'

"When it was mentioned once that Mrs. Clarke had confessed all her faults to the Duke of York, some one exclaimed, 'what candour!' 'And,' added George IV., 'what a memory!'"

How ingenious was the device of the Eastern sage, who—

"Being desired to inscribe on the ring of his Sultan a motto equally applicable to prosperity and adversity, returned it with these words engraved on the surface, 'And this, too, shall pass away.'

"Curran being angry in debate one day, put his hand on his heart, saying, 'I am the trusty guardian of my own honour.' 'Then,' replied Sir Boyle Roche, 'I congratulate my honourable friend on the snug little sinecure to which he has appointed himself.'

"An attorney in Dublin having died exceedingly poor, his funeral expenses were to be paid by a shilling subscription. When Lord Norbury was asked to contribute his mite, he exclaimed, 'Only a shilling to bury an attorney! Here is a guinea, go and bury one-and-twenty of them!"

Every one will acknowledge the force of the following extract from 'Arlington:'-

"I have seen many kinds of exclusive society, and I am not very much the admirer of ours. I happened to be in ----shire lately; there they are exceedingly exclusive. They exclude almost every. body, and certainly every topic that does not belong to that county. Everybody talks, thinks, and looks in —shire. All are provokingly intimate with each other, and as provokingly unacquainted with everybody else. You are made to feel, as long as you are among them, that to know the world in general passes for nothing; but you must know every man, woman, and child, house, road, horse and dog, in -shire, if you would be thought to know anything, and wish to understand what they are talking about. All their jokes are local. You hear a mightily flat story, about some person or other, that every one round you is ready to die of; and you stare about you, and try, by way of sociability, to get up a laugh, and then you are told, with a compassionate air, 'Ah, if you did but know the person! The story is nothing without having seen him.' And then what an inferior being you seem, the man who never saw Smith of Smithy Hall!

"I have seen people of a very different kind, people of family and rank, and of the world, who in their way were very snugly and amiably exclusive. I was once on a visit to the Caldecots at their country place—that warren overrun with cousinship-the head-quarters of a family clique. It ought to have been charming to see a large party so united-impossible to disapprove-but equally impossible to like it. They were very merry together-but what intolerable wits to a stranger! They had among them a large stock of traditional jokes, known only to themselves, and the least possible allusion to any of these set a whole row tittering in an instant. One felt that the world was divided by them into two classes-those who were related to them, and those who were not; and that they a little despised you for being of the latter. Then they had family names for things and persons, which they stared at you if you did not know. It was really difficult to learn! Everybody was alluded to by a nickname.

"A saddler at Oxford having forgotten to which of his customers he had sold a saddle, desired his clerk to charge it in the bills of all his customers, and he afterwards acknowledged that two-and-thirty of them paid for it.

"At the Tavistock Hotel all remarks by the waiters were to be written down for the landlord on a slate, and one morning he found this inserted among the rest, 'No. 23, Dead in his bed.'

"Fuller says of some Christians, who were reproached for not having courage enough to endure the flames, 'Oh! there is much more required to make a man valiant than only to call another a coward."

"When Dr. Paley dined out for the first time after being promoted in the Church, he was in a state of good-humoured jocularity on his accession of dignity, and called out during dinner to one of the servants, 'Shut down the window behind my chair, and open another behind one of the curates."

Wits appear to have a happy faculty of getting rid of bores. The old men of the sea that sit so heavily upon the shoulders of the Sinbads are cast adroitly into the mire by dexterous movement of these nimble gentry. Most men of talent are now and then codemned "for want of company to put up with trumpery." George Selwyn had tolerated prosy old gentleman in the country, that is Doghermy's where the country is the country. Dogberry's phrase "would have been most tolerable and not to be endured" in Lord In London, therefore, George hurried past him in the street. "Surely," said the fettleman, stopping him, "you remember me "Yes," replied Selwyn, breaking away, "and when next we meet in the country, I shall be happy to renew the acquaintance." Shall be dan't dan's persecutor was an elderly twader of the fair sex. He escaped her by taining that the weather was too bed to p

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out, and when she caught him returning from a walk, and accused him of inconsistency, "It cleared up," he said, "enough for one, but not for two." The suspected feint of Smith, the author of the 'Rejected Addresses, is more amusing than either. He was laid up with gout at the house of a country squire. A friend proposed a stroll in the garden. "A stroll," exclaimed Smith; "look at my gouty shoe." "Ah," replied his friend, "I wish I had brought one myself, but our host is out of the way now." "What difference does that make?" inquired Smith. "You don't mean to say," rejoined the friend, "that you have really got the gout! I thought you had merely worn that shoe to escape being shown the improvements." But nothing ever surpassed the ingenuity of Lord Norbury. He once, in Dublin, out of formal civility, told an elderly couple that they must pass some time with him at his country seat, which was many miles distant. He espied them one day coming down the avenue in a chaise and pair, the roof loaded with a mountain of luggage. He was at the door to greet them-seized their hands, shook them with Irish warmth, and exclaimed with rapture, "This is kind—this is kind indeed! Now, I'll take no denial—none whatever—you shall stay and dine with me!" When the Abbé Coyar intruded upon Voltaire, with the intention of remaining some weeks at the least, the great man endured him till the following day. But the torture of a story interminably long and intolerably dull, induced him to cut short the narrative and the visit by this interlocutory speech-"Do you know the difference, Monsieur l'Abbé, between Don Quixote and yourself? Don Quixote mistook inns for castles, you mistake private houses for inns."
There are myriads of Monsieur l'Abbés who have not yet learnt that brevity is the soul of wit, and for their benefit we repeat a favourite story of Franklin, which shows how much verbiage may be pruned away by those who study the art. A hatter setting up in business, consulted his friends on the inscription for his shop-" John Thomson, hatter, makes and sells hats for ready money," with the gn of a hat. The first friend suggested that "hatter" was superfluous-the second that it was better not to mention "ready money," for it was sometimes prudent to give creditand a third, that the purchaser of a hat cared not a fragment of nap who made it. The inscription was abridged in obedience to these criticisms, and read, "John Thomson sells hats." "Sells!" exclaimed a fourth, "why, who would expect you to give them away? Upon which the last two words were expunged, and all that remained of the original device was "John Thomson," with the sign

On the Amendment of the Law and Practice of Letters Patent for Inventions. By Thomas Webster, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Barrister at Law. Chapman and Hall.

The laws regulating the grant of patents for inventions are of eminent interest in a country so actively engaged in every description of manufacture as our own. The inventive faculties of the chemist and the engineer are involved in the production of nearly every article of use or luxury. Hence the efficiency and convenience of these laws are of as much importance to the general public as to inventors themselves. The many serious objections to the existing system have been for some years actively canvassed, but we are

indebted to the "Great Exhibition" for the first practical attempt to remedy its evils. In a recent number (ante p. 470) we referred to the measure then under the consideration of the legislature, which was pressed upon the government by the necessity of protecting such inventions as, although not patented, were intended to be displayed in our Crystal Palace. That measure has now become the law of the land, and although we retain the opinions we there expressed as to its insufficiency, we yet thankfully accept it as a first step towards a thorough reform.

Mr. Webster is well known to all interested in new inventions as one of the first legal authorities on matters connected with Patent Law. Sharing, as we do, his conviction of the injury inflicted upon this useful though enthusiastic class by some of the peculiarly mischievous among the existing regulations, we advise their careful consideration of this Essay from the pen of their favourite advocate. His object is to inform rather than to suggest, to conciliate the supporters of the various suggestions made for improvement rather than to enforce any theory of his own. By indicating those amendments of the Patent Laws concerning which unanimity exists, and by inducing those who are interested in the subject to unite for the attainment of these, the author hopes to secure an instalment of valuable reform. This he rightly contends is preferable to a continuance of all the existing abuses, until a perfect system shall have been devised.

These amendments are—1. Protection to the inventor from the time of his first application, instead of from the sealing of his letters patent. 2. That there should be one patent for the United Kingdom, instead of separate patents for England, Scotland, and Ireland. 3. A reduction in the cost of obtaining a patent, and the distribution of such cost over three periods, permitting the inventor to abandon his patent before the second or third payment becomes due. And 4. The adoption of a system of indices to inventions, and the official publication of specifications.

If these modifications, upon which all are agreed, could be introduced, and some of them are included in the legislative measure which has just passed the house, our patent laws would be still imperfect, but much serious practical inconvenience would be remedied, and some abuses would be altogether removed.

Voyages, Aventures, et Combats-Souvenirs de ma Vie Maritime. By Louis Garneray.

M. Louis Garneray, born at Paris the 19th February, 1783, was destined by his fond parents for the peaceable vocation of a land-scape painter; but "an irresistible penchant for adventures and voyages," an "enthusiasm for glory, which heated his blood, and made him dream night and day of combats, caused him to look with heroic scorn on palette and paint. Fortunately for him, he had an uncle, Captain Beaulieu le Loup, commander of a frigate in the French navy, who encouraged his taste for the sea and for fighting. Accordingly, the pair so pestered the hero's parents, that the good people at last consented that the hope of their house, instead of daubing on canvas—

ventors themselves. The many serious objections to the existing system have been for should go and thrash the perfidious English for I knew that all eyes were fixed on too, I heard a sort of sinister and is should go and thrash the perfidious English yell (sic) above my head, I shuddered.

on "the wide waste of waters," which they impudently called their exclusive domain.

It is the record of the heroic exploits and the marvellous adventures which he did and encountered in the course of his seafaring life that M. Garneray has given to the public under the above title. It has, we are assured, excited the profound admiration of all classes of his countrymen; and, in spite of the din of political strife, has kept alive their keenest curiosity during the four months it has been in publication in the feuilleton of one of the daily newspapers. "Ah!" say the Parisians, "Garneray is a wonderful man, and did wonderful things,—no hero of the sea is to be compared to that landscape painter!" "But," asked a stiff-necked Englishman, "is it all true that he says?" "True—why he solemnly pledges his honour that there is not a word of exaggeration; and, besides, it is all in print!" Let us see, then, what Garneray did.

It was when he was at the tender age of thirteen that his parents gave their consent to his going to sea, and it was settled that he should embark on board the frigate called the Forte, commanded by Captain Beaulieu the Wolf aforesaid. En attendant the order for sailing, the worthy captain strongly exhorted his nephew to drink hard every day, as the only means of enabling the true sailor to support existence on land; and he solemnly promised that when once off terra firma he should see "how cannon thundered, and how English men-of-war were sunk." The Forte was at last ordered to join the division of Admiral de Sercey, which was to proceed to the Indian seas. This division consisted altogether of four frigates and two corvettes, and at the Isle of Bourbon it was joined by two other frigates. A week after, these eight ships fell in with two English men-of-war, the Victorious of 80, and the Arrogant of 74. Instead, however, of boldly assailing the foe, as the gallant Garneray expected, the French admiral, notwithstanding the immense superiority of his force, took to flight. English, on the contrary, seemed most anxious to have a little conversation with him; and accordingly, with unpardonable rudeness, ran after him. Finding, after a good chase, that he was likely to be caught, he resolved to give battle. The eight ships were drawn up in battle array, and presently began to pepper with cannon-balls the uncivil Englishman. Our young friend felt his soul swell at the idea of the 'glory' which was about to descend on la belle France; but he admits, notwithstanding, that the formidable work of slaughter and destruction made him quake:-

"Although fully decided to do my duty, I could not help feeling a violent sinking of the heart. I am persuaded, however, that if it had depended on me at that solemn moment to have avoided the combat without compromising myself, I should not have done it!"

Bravo Garneray!—that was worthy of you. His uncle, however, not having, it seems, quite the same stout confidence in his heroism, ordered one Kernau, a rough sailor, a thorough loup de mer, to toss him overboard in the event of his showing the slightest fear:—

"'Eh, old fellow,' said Kernau, just after the firing commenced, 'we are going to have some fine fun!'

"I confess that the emotion I felt on hearing the whistling of the first ball which passed over my head was very strong, but I did not show it, for I knew that all eyes were fixed on me. When, too, I heard a sort of sinister and indescribable yell (sic) above my head, I shuddered. "'What's that?' I asked.

"'The chirping of a cannon-ball in the rigging," said Kernau. 'Don't you like the music?'

"'Ex-ceed-ingly-only I wanted to know the

name of the instrument.

Then come all the well-known details of a sea-fight-how the cannon roared-how the fire flashed-how masts were splintered-how rigging was carried away-how men's heads were knocked clean off-how the carnage was dreadful-how the crew yelled with frantic fury when the chance seemed against them, and with as frantic delight when it was in their favour. As for Garneray himself, not only did he do his duty manfully, but he caused his "eyes to flash vengeance and hate at the English." Of course the result of all was that the two Englishmen were completely and shamefully beaten, and were obliged to sheer off. Nevertheless, for some inexpli-cable reason, the eight Frenchmen did not think right to capture them. Young M. Garneray and his friend Kernau did not approve of this generosity:-

"Thunder and lightning! Bombs and brimstone! Who would have let those English fellows run away like that! Ah, the cowards, not to stop to be taken! Why if I had had only a simple privateer, I would by this time have had them both in tow with their flags trailing in the water !

Some months after, M. Garneray, on board the Brûle-Gueule, a corvette of twenty-two guns, went in company with the frigate the Preneuse, to the Chinese coast. After all but capturing an immense convoy of merchantmen, they saw two English men-of-war. "They attacked and took them, of course?" asks the reader. No, and for this reason-the men of war no sooner saw the brave frigate and the valiant corvette, than they sneaked into the Canton river, and remained there in spite of all provocations.

After this, the Brûle-Gueule and the Preneuse went to the Isle of Bourbon. They there found two English men-of-war, a frigate and a corvette, attacking the forts. All the English force immediately turned against them-"And, being so much stronger, beat them, no doubt?" No, sir; the two Frenchmen, by admirable seamanship, kept the English at bay for some time; and when at last they were compelled to get into close quarters, they easily cut right through the English line, in spite of a terrific fire. They then got into a sort of bay, and threw up a battery on land.

"'Now,' said the Captain, 'we can await the

visit of the English gentlemen.

"During a whole week, the enemy, though vastly stronger than we were, did not dare to come up; but on the eighth day, after having carefully prepared for a long combat, they presented them-selves with the full assurance of success. But a mortifying disappointment awaited them.'

Mortifying indeed! They attacked with all their force the two small ships of the French-no success: attacked again-another failure: redoubled their efforts-all was vain:

"Their fury was powerless-their exertions useless. Their violence only served to keep them longer under our fire—to double their losses, and augment their shame. Eventually they were obliged disgracefully to abandon the scene of action; and a little while after they left the colony altogether."

In this glorious affair, it is to be noted that Garneray, though only a common sailor, played the principal part; and the captain of the Preneuse publicly acknowledged his obligations to his marvellous skill and sublime

Passing over the taking of sundry East

Indiamen, we find after awhile the invincible corvette and frigate in the Bay of Lagoa. There they were caught in a trap; not fewer than five English vessels armed to the teeth met their astonished view. They disguised themselves as merchant ships, but the Englishmen found them out. On being recognised—

"'Up with the French flag!' cried Captain L'Hermite of the Preneuse; 'open the ports-prepare the guns-fire!"

The two small Frenchmen were in a most dangerous position near the coast, and the English were so placed that they could pour a terrible fire into them. But see the won-derful power of bravery!—the glorious corvette and the invincible frigate cut their way out of the bay; and, what is more, did such fearful havoc on all the five Englishmen, that not one was able to give chase! And what is still more extraordinary is, that a fire-ship, which the English had the infamous cowardice to send against the Preneuse, exploded close to it, but did not do any material damage, though the force of the explosion was such as to make the adjacent mountains tremble.

In this engagement, however, the corvette and frigate were greatly damaged, and had a considerable portion of their men hors de combat. On leaving the bay, a terrific storm arose, and did them further immense injury, besides causing the death of a number of the wounded. For three days and three nights the two unfortunate ships were tossed about by the raging elements, and all their able men became completely exhausted. By some mischance, too, they got separated. Whilst the tempest was still raging with indescribable fury, the brave frigate, left alone, saw-oh, fatality !- all at once, an English man-of-war of 64 bearing down on her. In her dilapidated state it was out of the question to think of fighting; so she hoisted all sail, and tried to get out of reach. But the Englishman was too rapid in his movements; he came up, and, sans ceremonie, opened a formidable fire:-

" 'Gentlemen,' said the Captain to his officers, 'you see we have no alternative but to fight the Jupiter' (that was the name of the Englishman), ' notwithstanding he is stronger than we are. But, gentlemen, though we are only in the proportion of one to five of the foe, we need not fear, for we are Frenchmen!"

To work, then, the two ships went; and tremendous was the way in which they battered each other-tremendous the carnage -tremendous everything! But, wonderful to relate, it was the frigate which did most damage, and committed the greatest slaughter. At last, by skilful manœuvring and sublime courage, it got into such a position as to render the boarding of the enemy easy: and fierce shouts of enthusiasm were raised by the French when the order to board was given. But the man-of-war, terrified at the thought of coming to such close quarters with such a formidable foe, manœuvred out of his immediate reach :-

"At this the rage of our crew became really frightful, and it was easy to read in their eyes that they intended nothing less than to rush into the sea to capture the English enemy in swimming."

The conflict continued to rage with awful fury :-

"The English, exasperated by their disasters, and our sailors inflamed with enthusiasm, are no longer like men. The firing recommences with horrible energy. Broadsides are exchanged as quickly as rounds of musketry--we see nothing, we hear nothing, there is nothing but smoke and flame. The batteries are inundated with bloodthe decks are strewed with dead-men worn out with fatigue fall into the sea and are drownedour sails are torn to shreds—our masts shattered to pieces. But what matters! We fight—we fight!"

At last nearly the whole of one side of the Jupiter was battered in, and she was in danger of sinking. Crippled and humiliated, she sheered off, and hoisting sail fairly ran

" 'Ah! the coward!' cried Captain L'Hermite, his nostrils swelling and his eyes flashing fire, as he watched with mingled despair and fury the retreating vessel. 'Ah! the coward! That captain deserves to be ignominiously degraded. What! he commands a man-of-war—has a numerous and expert crew, who were not decimated as we were at Lagoa, or in any other engagement, -and yet he flies,he flies before a shattered frigate-before a handful of men-the coward!'

"'Ah, Captain!' cried a midshipman, with great enthusiasm, 'if you had been on board the Jupiter, you would not now be running away in

that shameful fashion!""

After this, a dreadful malady broke out amongst the crew, carried off a great many, and disabled nearly all the rest. Nothing scarcely could be more pitiable than the condition of the glorious frigate. To add to its misfortunes, however, it ran right on a coral reef off the island of Mauritius, and there stuck fast. All attempts to remove it were vain, and the only means of keeping it standing were to prop it with poles. In that position it had to encounter the attack of two English men-of-war of 74 guns each. It fought with desperate bravery for some time; indeed the hull of the frigate was knocked almost entirely to pieces; but at last the English got possession of the reef, and took the Captain prisoner:-

"When the boat containing the Captain neared the English vessels, Admiral Sir Pellew, who commanded, caused the French flag to be hoisted. His officers assembled in lines, and stood uncovered

whilst Captain L'Hermite passed.

"'Captain,' said the English admiral, with a bow, 'permit me to shake you by the hand-it is the hand of the most valiant sailor in the world!'

"L'Hermite presented his sword. "'I accept it as that of a hero-it shall never leave me.' Then taking off his own sword, he added, 'I can only offer you in exchange one of an honest sailor. Will you accept it and wear it as a souvenir of the profound esteem with which you

inspire me!' We have dwelt at such length on the early warlike exploits of the illustrious Garneray that we are unable to follow him further. This we regret, for it would, we are certain, have amused the reader to know how, as a corsair, he captured English vessels by the score-how he went on a diplomatic mission to the Queen of Bombetoc-how she fell over head and ears in love with him, and asked him point blank, in the very presence of her august husband, and in the English language, "Will you love me—tan kyou my sweetheart!" (sic)—how he once found himself in his boat on the top of a high mountain, like Noah in the ark after the deluge had subsided-how he had a tremendous combat with a boa-constrictor-how he was chased in the sea by tigers, the tigers swimmin after him like sharks-how he was brought a prisoner of war to England-how he suffered, and how he helped to commit murder; together with a multitude of other marvellous things-all, like the preceding, strictly true.

The French, though they have a fair collection of naval novels, in the Marryat and Cooper style, have hitherto been without any very striking records of sea adventure. But,

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thanks to M. Garneray, their literature no longer labours under that reproach. He has recorded deeds as heroic, and seen adventures as extraordinary as any that are related of his countrymen Jean Bart, or Suffren, or Surcouf, the corsair-ay, or of any other sea hero or traveller of any country of ancient or modern times. Indeed, for our own part, we think him fully entitled to rank with Sinbad the sailor, the French Munchausen, and the Gallic Gulliver.

#### SUMMARY.

Shall we Spend 100,000l. on a Winter Garden? By Francis Fuller. Ollivier.

WE cannot compliment the Chairman of the Council of the Society of Arts and Member of the Executive Committee on the ability of his pamphlet. We have no doubt of the value of establishing Schools of Design in our principal manufacturing towns, but why take the Exhibition funds, which belong to the people of London rather than to the people of England, for that purpose? And why attempt to ridicule and throw discredit on the scheme of a winter garden? "Mr. Paxton's tastes as a landscape gardener and botanist," says Mr. Fuller, "enable him to conjure up a delightful vision of whole acres of pleasure ground, planted with semitropical shrubs, flowers, and even trees, and adorned and enlivened by groups of the fairest and most fashionable beauties of England, with crowds of lovely children, and the beaux of their nurses. In this scheme he is ably supported by 'Denarius,' who brings up a charge of cavalry to support Mr. Paxton's infantry, and urges all the arguments which cannot fail to produce an effect on those who have a taste for trees, for flowers, for exercise, under circumstances which would, at any rate for those who have carriages, set the variable inclemency of our climate at defiance. In such a building all our London out-of-door fêtes would be most agreeably concentrated. We should no longer be drenched at the Horticultural on a wet day of August, or frozen at the Botanical on a cold day of May. Monsieur Jullien would find it advantageous to transfer his services from the Surrey Zoological to one wing of the Crystal Palace; and with good arrangements a formidable rival might be created to the more genteel and scientific establishment in the Regent's Park; while Kew, fallen into contempt, would be left to the investigation of mere betanists. Perhaps Denarius might induce the authorities to remove to a fine art department the cartoons from Hampton Court." We quote this to show Mr. Fuller's nonsensical style of exaggeration and contemptuous merriment. Neither Denarius nor Paxton ever contemplated such an abuse of the Crystal Palace, neither have they proposed to "give up in perpetuity eighteen acres of glazed park for a riding-school." The author's financial logic is not more successful. Mr. Fuller endeavours to show that a winter garden would only be available to the wealthy classes residing in the vicinity of Hyde Park. In reply to this we may assert that a metropolitan winter garden could not be planted in a much more accessible situation; and it would be for no class in particular, but for all classes from all parts. The author wishes it to be understood that the middle and working classes of England have an especial claim to the surplus funds, because it is by their shillings that it has accumulated. We hold that for every shilling that has been paid to the Great Exhibition, the giver has already received ample value. It might as well be argued that the halfpenny passengers who avail themselves of the convenience of Waterloo Bridge are entitled to the surplus profits arising out of the increased traffic.

The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society. Edited by John Yonge Akerman. Vol. XIII. April 1850 to January 1851. Smith.

ALTHOUGH ancient coins produce large sums at public auctions in this country, as the recent sales

antiquaries who have studied the coinage of Greece and Rome, and the currency of the middle ages, is far less than those of the continent. Many Englishmen, proclaiming themselves archæologists, will yet confess their ignorance of coins and medals, as if these minute relics did not constitute the accidence of the science, and furnish data supplied by no other remains. The existence of a periodical solely devoted to the study of ancient coins-and we believe it has now been established sixteen years and more—is therefore one of the wonders of our times, and the marvel of those who consider the subject a dry one. Among the papers of interest in the present volume are the following:-Remarks on some rare and unpublished coins of Afghanistan, by W. S. Vaux; on the ancient money of Abdera in Spain, by the late M. Falke; select coins from the cabinet of Major Rawlinson, by W. S. Vaux; a memoir of Thomas Rawlins and the honorary medals of the commonwealth, by B. Nightingale; an account of some Baronial and other coins of the reign of Stephen, by Jonathan Rasleigh; and an account of the badges and memorials of Charles I., by Edward Hawkins, with plates of many examples. These, with other communications of interest, with accounts of the finding of coins in England, make up a volume which should obtain a place on the book-shelves of every man who aspires to the distinction of archæologist. Dilston Hall; or, Memoirs of the Right Hon. James

Radcliffe, Earl of Derwentwater, a Martyr in the Rebellion of 1715, &c. By William Sidney Gibson. Longmans.

An interesting account of a martyr to a bad cause; of one who, as far as we can now learn, had no selfish views in taking up arms for the graceless son of a bigoted, cruel, and besotted father. The prestige of "Bonnie Prince Charlie" is not yet quite extinguished on the English borders. We have seen the tears stand in the eyes of old men as they have reviewed the traditions of that eventful period, though we are disposed to believe that this feeling may be traced to the sympathy which minds not altogether callous always evince for misfortune, however well deserved, rather than to any positive love for a prince whose lineage was not English.

"Ah surely nothing dies but something mourns!" says the poet, who has also left us the remark that wrath and partiality are virtues in an author, because they make him write in earnest. If our readers are inclined to subscribe to this dogma, they will not find fault with Mr. Gibson's florid panegyric on the virtues of the unfortunate Earl of Derwentwater.

The Wisdom and Benevolence of the Almighty, as displayed in the Sense of Vision. By T. Wharton Jones, F.R.S. Churchill.

THE Actonian Prize of 100 guineas for the best essay "upon any one of the senses, in illustration of the wisdom and beneficence of the Almighty," has been justly awarded to Mr. Wharton Jones. The adjudication in his favour by the managers of the Royal Institution has prompted him to submit his successful essay to the public; and we have been much gratified by its perusal. The author sets out with considering the senses in their general relation to each other, and the functions of the animal economy, and then proceeds to the sense of vision in particular. The description of the structure of the eye, and the design evinced in its dioptric arrangements, is extremely clear, and illustrated by diagrams, which are exceedingly well executed. He then describes the sense of vision as it exists in the lower animals, comparing the eyes of birds with those of fishes, and the eyes of insects with those of crustaceans. The physiology of vision involves many points of extreme difficulty, such as our seeing objects erect while the impres sion of them is inverted on the retina; our seeing objects single with two eyes; the mode in which the impression is conveyed along the optic nerve to the sensorium. These and other obscure points Mr. Wharton Jones has explained according to the most recent and most satisfactory discoveries in optical science. This prize essay is a fit sequel to the Bridgewater Treatises; it is philosophically and abundantly testify, the number of our English admirably written, and notwithstanding all that has peculiarly given to lap-dogs and other pets, the

been published upon the structure and physiology of the eye, it may be esteemed a valuable contribution to this department of science.

On the State of Man subsequent to the Promulgation

of Christianity. Pickering. Some wise and good men in ancient times took to themselves the unassuming title of philosophers, or lovers of wisdom. The name became classical, and whether at first assumed in true humility or feigned, it was associated with higher aims than the original meaning of the word suggested. Some wise and good men of our own day, with a modesty reminding us of the primitive philosophers, are publishing a series of "Small Books on Great Subjects, edited by a few Well-wishers to Knowledge." Of this series the volume whose title is prefixed is the nineteenth number. Of former volumes on various subjects, political, philosophical, and scientific, we have spoken with praise at the time of their appearance. The fourteenth number was on "The State of Man before the Promulgation of Christianity," and this continuation of the subject is handled with the same ability and good sense displayed in the former treatise. The author's object is to trace the reciprocal effect of Christianity on the people and the laws of the nations into which it first penetrated, and of these on Christianity. The historical part of the work is admirably done; from the perplexing records of doctrinal disputes and ecclesiastical feuds the few leading points in the History of the progress of Christianity are selected, which bear upon the progress of man, while most interesting sketches are given of the general customs and opinions prevalent in the Roman Empire at different epochs, as the new religion gradually extended and deepened its influence. We do not know any work of the same size containing so clear and concise a statement of the historical progress and the moral influence of Christianity during the first three centuries. There is in those parts where the author leaves the narrative to make his own reflections, an affectation of philosophical dignity somewhat amusing; and in professing himself a "rationalist," instead of feeling it as a term of reproach, he says, "there is high sanction for giving a reason for the hope that is in us." If the book were intended for popular use, we might refer more fully to the rationalism of this "well-wisher to knowledge," but those into whose hands it will chiefly come will easily perceive what is objectionable in the spirit of the book, and will appreciate its general excellence. The volume closes with the establishment of Christianity by Constantine, and is to be followed by two or three other treatises, each giving the history of a period ending with some remarkable change in the history of civilized man, the whole to be concluded with a review of the present state and prospects of society.

Specimens of Translation and Versification. By Joseph Hambleton. Charles Fox. WE have specimens of versification in this volume

of all sorts, from the sublime to the ridiculous. There are translations from Klopstock and Goethe, and there are epigrams from the French, such as the following, on-

> THE PLUNDERED POET. "Poet. I've just been robbed.
> Friend. You fill me with grief.
> Poet. All my manuscript verse.
> Friend. How I pity the thief!"

Another epigram, an original one, might, if generally known, prove of mutual advantage to dog-owners and to dog-stealers, the latter of whom have recently become a highly-respectable class of the community, and display a most conscientious alacrity in restoring lost dogs to their disconsolate owners. This moral change has been produced by an act of Parliament, imposing severe penalties on the special form of breach of the sixth commandment to which they were previously addicted:-

> FOR A DOG-COLLAR. " I am a little dog lost : Take me home, pray; Your trouble and cost My mistress will pay."

As the wives of literary men are said to be

foregoing specimen of Mr. Hambleton's poetry may be more acceptable to the readers of the Gazette than any of his longer and graver pieces. We are not called upon to say more about the merit of an author who, in a concluding 'envoy,' says that his poems are intended for one fair critic only, whose favourable notice will outweigh any other censure:

"The gay will neglect you,
The busy reject you,
The noble suspect you,
The learned correct you,
Unfortunate verses!

But she will not pain you, That hand will retain you, That heart a bliss gain you, That soul a thought deign you, Most fortunate verses."

We are, however, more pleased with Mr. Hambleton's little book than with many volumes of poetry of higher pretensions, and with titles more ambitious.

The History of Adult Education. By J. W. Hudson, Ph.D. Longmans.

A MOST valuable addition to the history and the statistics of education. Dr. Hudson is secretary of the Manchester Athenæum, and founder of many similar institutions throughout the country, and in this volume he gives an account of almost every literary and mechanics' institution in Great Britain, and of many in America and other parts of the world. The operations of village and farmers' clubs, schools of design, museums, factory readingrooms, young men's mental-improvement societies, itinerating libraries, and all manner of educational appliances, are carefully recorded. Of many institutions the history is given at length, with tabular annual returns of the number of members, the revenue and expenses, and other statistical information. We are unable to refer to any of the details, of which the index intimates a vast variety, but we think it right to apprize our readers where they may find the most copious and recent information on all subjects bearing upon adult education and the improvement of the working classes.

Lectures on the German Mineral Waters, and on their Rational Employment for the Cure of Certain Chronic Diseases. By Sigismund Sutro, M.D. John W. Parker and Son.

This work might induce many to suppose it was high time for medical men to quit their profession, and for patients of all degrees to betake themselves to the German spa doctors, priests of the temples of the thermal naiads,—but who, nevertheless, are, for the most part, members of the great army of quacks who, locust like, devastate the earth. Ovid speaks of waters—

Verum animos etiam valeant mutare;"

and he also tells us that those of Crathis and Sybaris-

"Electro similes faciunt auroque capillos;" and if we are to believe the writings of some modern authors, and the recommendations of some modern physicians, fountains still exist with powers as extraordinary as those which, according to the poet, were capable, not only of transforming the body, but also the mind, and of changing the colour of the hair to gold or amber; nay, more, that there

are those, as the "Obsens salmacis unda,"

which soften men into women, and in which "on devient amoureux de soi-même." It will, however, be as well to remember, that if there be now no water like that of the Ciconians,

" \_\_ quod potum saxes reddit

there are those which may do unqualified mischief, and which, if they do not exactly convert the bowels into stone, will most assuredly, when improperly used, soon turn them to their pristine clay. The 'Lectures' before us, which originally appeared in a medico-political journal, are almost entirely founded upon the great work of Vetter. If they do not possess much originality, they are at any rate pleasantly written, abound in wayside gossip, are agreeable travelling companions, and a sort of semi-scientific 'Murray's Handbook to the German Spas." But woe to the unfortunate wight

whom their glowing descriptions and brilliant promises may induce to select for himself, and without the advice of a physician—not the spa doctor—a spring, from which, as from a cornucopia, riches above price are represented to flow, amply sufficient to satisfy the wants of all who seek for health, and where, as they say, this treasure is to be found in the shape of a panacea "for all the ills that flesh is heir to."

The Prevention and Cure of Spinal Curvatures and Deformities of the Chest and Limbs; being the result of many years' experience. By Mrs. Godfrey. Churchill.

An advertisement of Mrs. Godfrey, of Renshawstreet, Liverpool, and her cases of spinal complaints, put forth under the specious and, in such cases, very common plea, that it "will be means, under Divine Providence, of preventing a large amount of bodily suffering and mental anguish." We earnestly entreat those who unhappily may be so afflicted, to eschew non-professional persons, and betake themselves to qualified medical men.

Translation of the Pharmacopæia. By a Physician. Renshaw.

It is very absurd to continue the barbarous practice of employing the Latin language for publications such as the 'Pharmacopeia,' which ought, we think, to be patent to all the world. We have carefully examined the translation, and found it accurate. For one copy of the original, we doubt not a dozen of the translation will reach the profession and the public.

A Compendium of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, adapted to the London Pharmacopæia, embodying the new French, American, and Indian Medicines; and also comprising a Summary of Practical Toxicology, with the Abbreviations used in Prescriptions. By J. Hunter Lane, M.D., &c. Second Edition. Churchill.

This long title truthfully describes Dr. Hunter Lane's book, a great improvement upon the oldfashioned 'Thomson's Conspectus,' of which a new edition was sadly wanted.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Arnold's (Rev. T. K.) Eloge Ovidiana, Part 2, cloth, 5s. Arnold's New Rules and Forms for County Courts, cl., 4s. Block's Tourist & Sportsman's Companion to Scotland, 10s 6d Dante's Divine Comedy: The Vision of Hell, cloth, 6s. De Castro's History of the Jews in Spain, post Svo, cl., 6s. Elliott's Horæ Apocalvptica, 4 vols., 8vo, cloth, £2 14s. Ellis's (Mrs.) Sacred Thoughts, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d. Fenelon, Extracts from, by Marshall, 11th edition, cl., 5s. Fox's Six Colonies of New Zealand, 3s., with Map, 4s. 6d. Hardy's (E. L.) Agabus; a Tale of the Druids, cloth, 5s. Home Truths, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.

Mathias's (Rev. B. W.) Popery not Catholicism, cloth, 2s. Milner's Design of God in the Great Exhibition, cloth, 2s. Modern London; or, London as it Is, 18mo, cloth, 5s. Raikes' (H.) Popular Sketch of the English Constitution, 8s. Shortland's (E.) Southern Districts of New Zealand, 10s. 6d. Small Books on Great Subjects, No. 19, 12mo, cl., 4s. 6d. Vaux's Handbook to Antiquities of British Museum, 7s. 6d. Verral's (C.) The Spine; its Curvatures and Disorders, 6s. Youatt on the Horse, new edition, 8vo, cloth, 10s.

#### THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE.

From ' The Times.'

My observations during the eclipse on the 28th of last month were taken, under favourable circumstances, at a point within the zone of totality, at a small village called Ravelsburg, one mile north of the pretty town of Engelholm in Sweden, and about eighteen English miles from Helsingborg, in the direction of the central line. The view from this place was very extensive, Kullen Point lying westsouth-west with the intervening bay of Engelholm, while the landscape to the north included many miles of hill and dale over which to note the effects of the total eclipse. At half-past 1 o'clock the day was very fine. Light clouds of the modification termed cumuli spread over the horizon in nearly every direction, a light cirrus cloud covered the south-west sky to an altitude of about 15 degrees, the zenith and the heavens for 40 degrees around it being perfectly clear. At 10 minutes before 3 o'clock clouds of the same character had somewhat arisen in the south-west, but the sun was still

At 2h. 59min. P.M. local mean time, the first

contact of the limbs of the sun and moon took place. The definition of the limbs was beautifully sharp and clear, beyond anything I ever witnessed, even under the most favourable circumstances, in this country. As the moon advanced I remarked that her edge was extremely rough, the mountains on her surface near the limb being numerous, and some of them of considerable altitude. A fine line of light along the moon's limb off the sun was suspected for an arc of about 20 degrees eight minutes after the eclipse had commenced. At 3h. 12min. the diminution of daylight was perceptible upon the surrounding landscape, and at 3h. 30min. the distant hills looked dull and misty. At this time there was no appearance of illumination of the moon's limb, though I looked very closely and attentively. The clouds in the southwest had risen considerably, but the sun was perfeetly clear. At 3h. 35min. I noticed a tinge of colour upon the moon's surface, usually red or reddish purple, but it appeared variable and at times of a dark olive hue. Soon afterwards it was remarked that the diminution of daylight was very sensible, particularly on the sea and mountains of Kullen Point, the mistiness of distant objects increasing. At 3h. 40min. I remarked that the moon's disc was certainly of a dull coppery red, and suspected there was a slight illumination of her outline. At 3h. 43min, a great diminution of light, particularly towards the south, as much as a dense cloud would cause if it overspread the sky; gloomy out at sea, and towards Kullen Point. At 3h. 46min, the whole of that part of the moon near the sun was strongly illuminated with a coppery light, gradually shading off, and strongest at a short distance from the sun's border. Objects looked very dull. I thought the outline of the moon could be traced for some degrees by the difference of colour between the coppery red of her surface and the neutral tint of the field of view. At 3h. 49min. objects towards the north presented a very peculiar appearance, as though they were illuminated by a vivid flash of lightning, or the electrical light. At 3h. 51min. a chilly feeling in the air, the horizon looked closer in every direction, and the daylight now diminished very perceptibly. A thin cirrus cloud began to form about the sun, but it was of so slight a character as not to interfere in the slightest degree with the observations. The azure blue of the sky had very much deepened, particularly north of the zenith, where it was of a deep violet. The moon's limb appeared very uneven, quite a gap on her south edge. At 3h. 55min. everything very gloomy-the air felt chilly and damp, the sky of an intense blue colour. From this moment my eye was applied to the telescope until the sun had gone out entirely. Just before the commencement of the total eclipse a considerable mountain on the moon's edge appeared to shoot forward and join the sun's limb, thus cutting off a small portion of his disc near the southern cusp. About twenty seconds before the totality the same appearance presented itself with respect to many other irregularities upon the moon's edge, and instantaneously Baily's beads' were formed. The only visible portion of the sun resembled a string of fine luminous beads, separated by irregular intervals, and clearly caused in the present instance by the sun shining between the mountain peaks and along the valleys on the apparent edge of our satellite. The same exquisite definition of the limbs of the sun and moon, to which I have before alluded, continued during the partial eclipse, and the phenomena of 'the beads' were seen in all their beauty, until the beginning of total eclipse was marked by their instantaneous disappearance.

Up to this moment I had employed a dark glass throwing a neutral tint over the field of the telescope, and my attention was so arrested by the unexpected distinctness of 'Baily's beads,' that I omitted to remove the shape for a few seconds after they had vanished, and thereby lost the view of the sudden formation of the corona, or 'ring of glery,' round the sun; and when I looked without the dark glass, certainly not more than five or six seconds after the extinction of the sun, the corona and red

fames were already conspicuous. With respect to the former I should describe it as a luminous ring, very much brighter towards the sun, and gradually fading away to a distance of about half the diameter of the meon, where its light became lost in the ground colour of the heavens. Its colour resembled that of tarnished silver; but I am inclined to attribute this to the intervention of a very thin cloud, and think it very probable that in the absence of this cloud the corona would have appeared perfeetly white. There was a flickering or unsteadiness in its light, but nothing resembling circular motion. Divergent rays, of a somewhat paler colour than the corona itself, appeared to stream off in every direction from the border of the sun, and I think their extremities were frequently visible beyond the limits of the corona; those portions nearer the sun appeared to be shining through this luminous

The rose-coloured prominences described so minutely by observers of the total eclipse of 1842 formed by far the most striking feature during the eclipse of the 28th ult. The most remarkable one was situated about five degrees north of the parallel of declination on the western limb of the moon. It was curved like a sabre near its extremity, but perfeetly straight throughout two-thirds of its length. The edges were deeply tinged with rose-red, which faded off towards the centre, but I saw no violet colour about this prominence. On first viewing this remarkable object through the telescope, a few seconds after the commencement of totality, I estimated its length at about 45 seconds of an are, and being most desirous to obtain a confirmation or otherwise of the observation at Honolulu, described in my letter in The Times of July 10, I watched attentively for any alteration of size that might be apparent, and in less than 30 seconds found that it had lengthened considerably; for though it had remained perfectly stationary, I now estimated its length at one minute and a half, or twice as great as at the first glimpse, the dark body of the moon having appeared to move away gradually, and leave more and more of the projection visible. About 10 degrees south of the principal prominence, and at a distance of one minute of arc from the moon's dark limb, I saw a luminous triangular spot of the same colour as the great flame, yet perfectly detached from the limb; it was evidently of the same nature as the large prominence, and must have existed in the upper regions of the solar atmosphere. The edges were of a bright rose pink—the centre paler. With the exception of a gradual receding of this spot from the moon's limb as she moved across the sun, I could distinguish no change. Its form, appearance, and position, relative to the large projection, continued exactly the same as long as I could discern either. On the dark limb of the moon, on the side near the horizon, there appeared an uninterrupted succession of rose-coloured inequalities, which seemed to be in a state of fluctuation, though not to such an extent as materially to change their number and positions. The tops were of a full rose red, but their bases presented a bright violet tint, which appeared to spread along the limb of the moon. Near the western extremity of this long range of 'red flames' there was an isolated one of about forty seconds' altitude, and another of similar magnitude, at an angle of 145° from the north towards the east. I was too closely occupied in watching the larger prominence to pay much attention to the smaller ones during the short time allowed me, and I am consequently unable to state from observation whether they underwent the same gradual variations of apparent magnitude.

The moon's surface was decidedly reddish-purple soon after the beginning of the total eclipse; but half a minute later it seemed to have lost the reddish tinge and assumed a dull purple colour. The position of the approaching reappearance of the sun was indicated by the visibility of a bright glow, like twilight, on that part of the limb of the moon where the continuous range of rosecoloured projections had presented itself, and a few seconds afterwards the 'beads' were again noticed, not so numerous as before, but larger and more brilliant; five seconds more and this beautiful ap-

the the ter the

pearance vanished, the sun re-appearing as an extremely narrow but rapidly widening crescent. About ten minutes subsequently clouds began to form near the sun, and he was soon hidden from this cause, so that no opportunity was afforded of watching the declining phases of the eclipse.

Such are the principal telescopic phenomena which I was fortunate enough to witness, but I doubt if any language can convey an adequate impression of the grand-nay, awful phenomena on the earth and in the heavens during the continuance of the total eclipse. The entire landscape was overspread with an unnatural gloom-persons near me assumed an unearthly cadaverous aspectthe sea, in the distance, appeared of a lurid red—the whole of the southern heavens were of a sombre purple or purplish grey, the only indication of the sun's place being the ring of light, which we are accustomed to term the corona. North of the zenith the sky was of the most intense violet, and appeared very near; and, to crown the whole, the northwest and north-east heavens were occupied by broad bands of light of a yellowish crimson, or Claude-Lorraine red, which, gradually sinking into the unnatural purple of the sky at greater altitudes, produced an effect that will never be effaced from my recollection, though I feel that I can convey no just idea of its awful grandeur. I envy those observers who were not compelled, in their character of astronomers, to withdraw their eyes from the contemplation of these astounding phenomena on the earth and in the atmosphere to view the less imposing, though, doubtless, not less remarkable appearances which the telescope exhibited round the sun. A few seconds, however, were sufficient to fix the general aspect of nature in my mind, beyond the chance of forgetting it as long as my life lasts.

I saw no stars or planets myself, but on my journey home was frequently assured of their having been distinctly seen, even at Copenhagen, where the eclipse was not total. It was so gloomy in this city, that persons had difficulty in recognising each other in the streets. One remarkable proof of the accuracy of astronomical calculations relative to the eclipse came to my knowledge. According to the best theories of the sun and moon, the eclipse should have been total at Helsingborg on the Swedish side of the Sound, but partial only on the opposite coast at Elsinore; and the captain of a steam-boat, passing at the time between these places, and about half a mile from Helsingborg, describes the curious effect produced by the country being dark in Sweden, the gloom increasing the further the eye was directed from the coast; while in Denmark the sun was evidently shining during the continuance of the total eclipse in Sweden. The southern limit of the shadow must therefore have passed over the Sound rather nearer to the Swedish than to the Danish coast-precisely as J. R. HIND. predicted.

The sky having been but little if at all clouded at Paris during the eclipse, we had confidently expected that the astronomers of that city would have been the first to publish a detailed account of the phenomenon. But nothing of the kind has yet appeared from them. The two French astronomers, M. Mauvais and M. Goujon, who went to Dantzic to observe it, have sent a brief statement to Paris, of what they noticed with respect to the 'luminous protuberances,' which excite such peculiar attention in the scientific world. One portion of them, they say, was of a reddish colour, at a short distance from the edge of the moon; another resembled a crescent, with extraordinary accompaniments. These phenomena differed from those observed in 1842 and 1850.

#### GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF MINES.

Since the removal of the Museum of Practical Geology to the new building in Jermyn Street, opened by Prince Albert on the 12th of May last, (see ante p. 346), arrangements have been in active progress among the Director and his staff of Professors for organizing the proposed School of Mines.

The mineral products of England exceed in value any of those of the Continental States, and yet we have been anticipated by France, Russia, Prussia, Saxony, Austria, Spain, Sweden, and Denmark, in providing students with the means of becoming scientifically and practically acquainted with the details of mining and metallurgical operations. Our island contains abundant treasure, but we have not sufficiently availed ourselves of the resources of geological and chemical science in turning it to the best account. Moreover, many thousands have been wasted in blindly digging for coal and metal in situations where the geologist could have determined beforehand that none existed. Schools have been founded at Paris and at St. Petersburgh where pupils attend regular sessions, pass through various courses of study, undergo examinations, and acquire diplomas according to their proficiency and good conduct; and it is now proposed seriously to establish a central and district mining schools in England, where those who like to avail themselves of it may embrace the advantage of practically studying in the field along with the officers of the Geological

The collections of the Institution are in a condition to be made available for educational purposes, and systematic courses of study in chemistry, metallurgy, geology, palæontology, physics, mineralogy, and mining, may be entered upon in the laboratories and working-rooms of the several departments, under the direction of the professors. The proposed course of scientific instruction will differ from that in colleges devoted to general education, in being of an essentially practical kind, so as to enable the student to enter at once upon the duties of mining, or any of the kindred arts which he may be called on to conduct.

The Museum will be illustrative of the applications of geology to the useful purposes of life. It contains an extensive series of rocks stratigraphically arranged, with reference to their mode of accumulation, and the subsequent action of various causes upon them; of fossils classed in the order of geological time; of specimens illustrative of the ores of the useful metals, of their mode of occurrence, and of the methods of preparing them for smelting; of mineral substances used for constructing public works and buildings, and of those employed for ornamental purposes, or for the useful arts in connexion with chemical or metallurgical manufactures. The processes of converting these raw materials into industrial products are carefully exhibited, and illustrations of the finished products are also displayed. The various arts connected with the mineral resources of the country, are illustrated by specimens showing varieties or peculiar excellencies of manufacture. Models of mines, mining tools, and working models of mining machinery, are collected, for the sake of exhibiting the various modes of working carried on in different districts. The Museum is open to the public for the first three days of the week, the remaining days being reserved for study.

Geological Surveys are carried on under the general direction of Sir H. T. De la Beche, and their central office is at the Museum. In this office the maps and sections are prepared and deposited. The field surveys are carried on in the localities under examination for the time being, and it is contemplated to communicate instruction in the field in the various departments of Geological Surveying, under the Mining, the Geological, and the Palæontological Professors.

Office of Mining Records. This office, under Mr. R. Hunt, is for the preservation of Mining Records. The absence of these needful documents was found to be the cause of much waste, either in attempts to work in localities where there is little prospect of success, or where from a want of proper knowledge of the old workings much useless expenditure is incurred. Numerous copies of plans and sections of mines, and many important statistical mining details, are deposited in this office, and are made available for the instruction of students.

Laboratories are established in the Museum for general, practical, and analytical Chemistry, under Dr. Lyon Playfair, and for Metallurgical Analysis

and Assaying, under Dr. Percy. Students will, under certain regulations, be admitted into the Laboratories for the purpose of receiving instruction in the analysis of minerals and ores, and of the methods used in applying them to useful purposes in the arts. Unless the student has already become acquainted with Practical Chemistry, it will be requisite to pass through the Chemical laboratory before entering that for Metallurgy, as the latter requires previous chemical knowledge before its study can be usefully entered upon.

Palæontological Department. As the relative age and determination of geological formations are, to a great extent, determined by the fossils they contain, it has been found necessary, in the prosecution of the Geological Survey, to attach a department of Natural History, under the direction of Professor E. Forbes, where the organic remains contained in the sedimentary rocks of the British Islands may be examined and preserved. Extensive collections of these fossils are now made and arranged, and are used for the instruction of students.

Lectures will be delivered as follows:-

Chemistry. Instruction in Chemistry is given by lectures and in the laboratory. The lectures explain the general laws of chemical affinity and combination, the physical forces connected with chemical phenomena, and their application to useful purposes. The elementary bodies and their compounds are discussed, and especial importance is given to the practical appliances of the different substances described. The processes used in the chemical arts, and the manufactures chiefly depending on the application of chemical principles, are treated of in detail. The chemical facts of importance in their applications to mining and engineering, in the treatment of soils, and the conversion of mining products into substances useful in the arts, are fully discussed. Organic Chemistry is so far entered upon, as is sufficient to enable the Student to study more fully this important branch of the science, and its applications to the arts and to agriculture receive especial attention.

Natural History applied to Geology. The principles of natural history, considered especially in their bearing on geological evidence; the organization of extinct creatures compared with and illustrated by that of existing animals and plants; the history of the successive aspects of animal and vegetable life during the different geological epochs; the examination and description of organic remains, and the application of them to the determination of strata. The practical bearings of natural history on the arts will be illustrated in a subsequent course.

Mechanical Science. This course embraces the physical constitution of matter—the molecular forces gravitation-law of falling bodies-weight-cohesive attraction-with particular reference to the strength of materials and binding or cementing agents. Mechanical powers—matter at rest and in motion, definition of force—the inclined plane the wedge-the screw-the lever, and applied mechanics in general. Motive powers.—Muscular force. Water power.—Hydrostatics and hydraulics, pumps, &c.—Mills.—Wind power. Pneumatics. Heat—embracing a consideration of the laws of calorific action. Latent and sensible heat. Expansion and contraction, and the influence of heat in determining the conditions of mattervaporization.—Mechanical value of heat.—Applications. The steam-boiler-Steam-engines, fixed and locomotive; combustion, ventilation, &c .-Light-sources of light-laws of artificial illumination-candles-lamps-safety lamps. Polarization of light, and its application to mineralogy. Electricity—the electric condition of matter—Electrochemical decomposition - electricity of mineral veins-consideration of the influences of electricity on structural arrangements. Voltaic electricity—its use in blasting rocks, &c. Magnetism—terrestrial magnetism—the magnet—the compass—surveying instruments, &c.—variations of the needle. General consideration of the applications of the

physical agencies to mining, engineering, and manufactures.

Geology. The proofs of the origin of stratified and igneous rocks, with an account of the more important substances entering into their composition, and an explanation of geological terms. The terrestrial actions now in progress are also described, including the degradation and denudation of land, earthquakes, volcanoes, areas of elevation and depression, &c. &c. Also a descriptive account of the whole series of geological formations, showing their stratigraphical order and manner of formation, the laws by which these are determinable, and their general economic applications. Especial attention is given to geological surveying and its economical bearings.

Metallurgy. Lectures and practical demonstrations in the laboratory. The lectures embrace the following subjects:—a description of the metals and such of their compounds as are of metallurgic importance; ores; modes of extracting the metals from their ores; furnaces, crucibles, &c., and the materials used in their construction; fuel; fluxes; slags; methods of assaying; alloys. The smelting of iron, copper, and lead, and the manufacture of steel, are discussed at considerable length; as also is the treatment of silver ores by the "wet" and "dry" ways, and the refining and "parting" of the precious metals. The important branch of electro-metallurgy is treated of in detail. The principles involved in metallurgic processes are expounded with special reference to practical application.

Mineralogy. Crystallography and the physical properties of Minerals, treated principally with a view to the practical discrimination of the substances considered by this science; the elements of the Chemistry of Mineralogy; and the Physiography, or systematic description of Minerals, with particular reference to their mode of occurrence, and the uses to which they are applied.

Mining. Considerations on the principles and management of subterraneous workings, the Practice of Mining in this and other countries being taught under the following heads:-Boring and preliminary researches; tools employed in mining; shafts and sinking; levels and driving; masonry, timbering, and tubbing; "exploitation," or the working away of veins and strata; transport and winding with the machinery and apparatus required; pumps and pumping engines; ventilation; and the preparation and dressing of ores.

Particulars respecting the times of lectures and all other information may be obtained of the Secretary, Mr. Trenham Reeks, 28, Jermyn St.

#### BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Section B .- Chemistry and Mineralogy. President.—Professor Thomas Graham.
Vice-Presidents.—Dr. Lyon Playfair; Wm. R. Grove, Esq.; Secretaries .- Thomas J. Pearsall, Esq.; Wm. Sykes Ward,

Esq.
Committee.—Dr. Baird; Rev. J. Barlow, Dr. Daubeny;
Professor Dumas; Dr. Faraday; Dr. Garrod; J. P.
Gassiot, Esq.; Dr. W. A. Miller; Dr. Schafhaeutl;
Prof. E. H. Scharling; W. H. B. Webster, Esq.; Dr.
De Vrij; Robert Warington, Esq.; Dr. J. H. Gladstone;
Colonel Yorke; Professor Walter R. Johnson (U. S.);
W. West, Esq; Professor Way; Dr. Gilbert; Professor
Williamson; Dr. Francis.

The proceedings of Section B attracted a larger share of attention this year than is usually the case. Several causes appear to have conspired to produce this increased interest. In the first place there was a large proportion of the heads of the chemical world present, at least during the early part of the meeting. Several distinguished foreign chemists also visited Ipswich on the occasion, and took as active a part as any of the British philosophers in the advancement of this department of science. Thus Dr. De Vrij, of Rotterdam, opened the proceedings of the Section with two papers, the one a description of a rare and costly variety of Camphor, the other on Nitro-glycerine,-a substance analogous to gun-cotton, -it is a liquid, but may be exploded, as he showed, by the blow of a hammer. Professor Scharling, of Copenhagen, also read a communication. M. Boutigny d'Evreux, who may well lay claim to the title 'Fire-King,' exhibited some of his Titanic exploits. And perhaps the most interesting portion of the proceedings was introduced by some observations of the eminent French philosopher, M. Dumas, to which we shall revert more fully hereafter. There was also a great variety in the subjects brought before the Section; and they were generally of a character capable of affording interest to those scientific men who are not chemists, This is a point which those who bring papers to the British Association would do well to study. It is not the most valuable communications in a scientific point of view that are the most esteemed; there are many investigations the results of which, though highly interesting to the pure chemist, are perfectly unintelligible to the general public, and such should be communicated to the appropriate learned societies, and forthwith printed in their transactions; whilst there are others, especially the applications of chemistry to natural history, medical and physical science, or in connexion with the various useful and ornamental arts, which are easily understood, and cannot fail to be appreciated by that class which forms the great body of the Asso.

Friday was the great day in Section B. The chemists mustered in full force to hear the paper of Professor Dumas, and join in the succeeding discussion. The title was attractive, - 'On Atomic Volume and Atomic Weight, with Considerations on the probability that certain Bodies now considered as Elementary may be Decomposed.' Those who had been drawn to the Section-room by the fame of the French philosopher, remained to hear him in his native tongue, and in a fluent oratorical manner, render an abstruse subject easy to be apprehended. We can only briefly state the lead. ing idea. Upon a comparison of the various substances reputed elementary, we are enabled to arrange them by certain resemblances into various well-marked groups; and those composing the same group are capable of substituting one another in compounds, without altering the general character of the body. Such a group is the triad, chlorine, bromine, iodine. Now, all the essential properties of bromine are intermediate between those of chlorine and iodine; and so is its atomic weight, the equivalent numbers of the three being 35, 80, and 125. Thus, could we by any means take half an atom of chlorine, and add it to half an atom of iodine, we might expect to produce bromine. Similar triads are found in sulphur, selenium, and tellurium; lithium, sodium, and potassium; and M. Dumas, in calcium, strontium, and barium. illustration of his views, adverted to the analogous groups in organic chemistry-for instance, the ethers; and drew attention to the fact of the several members of any one of these triads being generally found together. This communication gave rise to an interesting discussion, in which most of the leading chemists present joined. The speculations of the learned Professor were strengthened or modified by fresh analogies, and some of the veteran philosophers expressed their inclination to resume the attempts of the alchemists to transmute metals, or at least to prove their compound nature, and thus reduce the number of elementary bodies now so rapidly increasing. It happened rather curiously that Professor Faraday had that very morning exhibited specimens of the oxide of a new metal, donarium, and of the mineral from which it was obtained. They had been forwarded to him by Professor Bergeman, of Bonn.

The many important discoveries which have recently been made in the higher departments of organic chemistry have led to considerable modifications in the expression of our theoretical views. Two communications read at Ipswich bore upon this matter; the first, by Professor Williamson, 'On the Composition of Salts,' was directed more especially to the subject of notation; the second, by Dr. Daubeny, had respect to the nomenclature employed. The alterations proposed by the Oxford professor were but slight; indeed, his main object was to call attention to the unsatisfactory character of the present chemical nomenclature. During the conversation that ensued, different opinions were

expressed as to the expediency, or otherwise, of allowing the authors of original papers gradually to work the requisite reform; but the general desire appeared to be that a committee should be appointed to take the matter into consideration. Such a

committee was subsequently formed.

Among reports called for by the Association from members of this Section, one was read from Dr. Angus Smith, 'On the Air and Water of Towns.' Of the committee appointed to investigate the influence of light upon chemical action, electrical phenomena, and the growth of plants under various atmospheric conditions, Dr. Gladstone alone brought any communication. It was a continuation of a former paper by himself and Mr. G. Gladstone, and bore only incidentally upon the required subject. They had succeeded in growing pansies and grass plants not only in hydrogen gas, but in pure nitrogen, oxygen, nitrous oxide, or carbonic oxide. Experiments with bulbous-rooted plants in atmospheres containing gaseous hydro-carbons were also described. The general result of the investigation was, that, as far as vegetable life is concerned. either of the two great constituents of the atmosphere might prevail to the exclusion of the other, or they might be substituted by the abovementioned gases in any proportion, without giving rise to immediate injury. During the discussion of this paper, Professor Dumas made the highly important observation, that carbonic oxide is far more injurious to animal life than it is commonly reputed to be; indeed, much more poisonous than carbonic acid itself.

M. Boutigny's exploit has already been adverted to. This distinguished foreigner appeared among the chemists on Monday morning without previous intimation, and arrangements were made that he should immediately demonstrate to the Section the fact, that at a certain temperature liquids would remain supported in a vessel having interstices, which, under ordinary circumstances, permitted their free escape. A crucible made of coiled platinum wire was heated to redness; some alcohol or ether poured into it immediately assumed the spherical form, while the vapour caught fire underneath. Although several gentlemen present had repeated Boutigny's experiment of plunging the hand into molten lead without injury, few, if any, had seen it performed in a stream of liquefied iron, and to the majority of the members the experiment itself was new. A request was therefore made to the French philosopher to exhibit it at the Orwell works of Messrs. Ransomes and May. He willingly complied, and proceeded to the foundry in the afternoon, where, in the presence of a considerable assemblage, he passed his hand through the whitehot metal, and splashed it about with his fingers. The success of this experiment induced a naturalist present, Mr. Bowerbank, to lick with his tongue several white-hot rivets, which he did with equal impunity.

tural chemistry was made by Dr. Gilbert. It was a full account of experiments conducted on a large scale on the farm of Mr. Lawes, of Rothamstead, from which conclusions were drawn opposed to the 'mineral theory' of Baron Liebig, as developed in the last edition of his 'Letters on Chemistry.' Wheat had been grown for eight successive years on a previously exhausted soil, the several plots being supplied with various chemical manures, by the side always of one or more unmanured, and one to which farm-yard manure was continuously added. The amount of produce was exhibited to the Section by an ingeniously contrived diagram, in which the different manures were expressed by different colours. It appeared that mineral manures had scarcely increased the produce when used alone, whilst the effects of ammoniacal salts were very marked, even when repeated year after year upon the same space of ground, from which the entire crop-corn and stalk-had been removed The importance of ammonia for the supply of the azotized constituents of plants was certainly pointed out

by Liebig himself; yet the English agricultural

chemists that were present at the Ipswich meeting

expressed their full conviction that in his theories

A valuable addition to our knowledge of agricul-

of manures he had far overrated the importance of supplying the plants artificially with phosphates

and other mineral constituents. The application of chemistry to the arts is one of the most interesting and useful branches that fall under the cognizance of this Section. Dr. Lyon Playfair exhibited a number of articles of calico, manufactured by Mr. Mercer. The process involves a novelty-the steeping of the cotton in cold caustic soda, and subsequent washing out of the alkali with water. This causes a contraction in the fibre of from one-fifth to one-third of the total volume, and thus articles of extremely fine texture, even 260 picks to the inch, can be produced. Contrary to what might have been expected, the calico is said to be increased in strength by this immersion in soda. Cotton articles so prepared are capable of being printed with colours of greater brilliancy than usual; thus a piece of pink cotton velvet was exhibited, displaying a striking superiority over the tint ordinarily obtained from the same dye; and a piece of calico printed with a pattern of various colours, in which the lilacs especially were much improved. Lastly, a new article of clothing is produced by combining wool and cotton in the same fabric; as the wool does not shrink when exposed to the soda, it produces a peculiar pucker-

ing, which may be obtained in various patterns.

M. Claudet, who usually adorns the table of the Chemical Section with specimens of the photographic art, merely described on the present occasion two new contrivances for facilitating the practice of taking sun-pictures. Mineralogy is also a subject which is joined with chemistry in the proceedings of the British Association; and this afforded Dr. Beke an opportunity of furnishing some particulars about "a diamond slab supposed to have been cut from the Koh-i-noor." It appeared that in 1832 the Persian army, under the hereditary prince Abbas Meerza, subjugated Khorassan, and, among other important fortresses, effected the capture of Coochan. Here was found a large diamond slab, which was once employed by a poor family as a flint for striking a spark, but is supposed to have originally come from the "Mountain of Light." It weighs about 130 carats, and is now in all probability among the crown jewels of Persia.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Public ceremonies and fêtes do not fall within your province; but it would be an unpardonable neglect not to record that within the last week the Royal Commissioners of the Exhibition at London, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the city, together with a great number of personages of distinction in the different walks of life, have visited Paris as the guests of the Préfet and Municipality, and have been received with almost as much pomp as could have been displayed in honour of the proudest monarch, and with certainly as much hearty cordiality as friendship and hospitality could devise. This visit and this reception form one of the most remarkable signs of these remarkable times; they are, as it were, the seal to a bond of alliance between the two greatest nations on earth-they make the foes of centuries friends, and wipe from hearts, if not from history, the vain glory of past triumphs in war, the burning sense of past humiliations. They are, in a word, the realization of Beranger's beautiful vision of thirty years ago: -"J'ai vu la Paix descendre sur la terre,

Semant de l'or, des fleurs, et des épis,
L'air était calme, et du dieu de la guerre,
Elle étouffait les foudres assoupis.
'Ah!' disait-elle, 'égaux par la vaillance,
Français, Anglais, Belge, Russe, ou Germain,
Peuples formez une sainte alliance,
El donnez une sainte alliance, Et donnez-vous la main! " Oui, libre enfin, que le monde respire, Sur le passé jetez un voile épais

Semez vos champs aux accords de la lyre, L'encens des arts doit brûler pour la paix. L'espoir riant au sein de l'abondance, Accueillera les doux fruits de l'hymen. Peuples formez une sainte alliance, Et donnez-vous la main !"

The controversy as to the famous 'Chanson de Roland,' to which I alluded some months back, is still continued. It arose, it may be remembered.

out of a gentleman named Genin having published a new edition of the 'Chanson,' with the pretension that it was the best ever produced; and this pretension caused huge offence to previous editors, and to learned men who had had occasion, at different times, to occupy themselves with the old poem. In the recent paper war on the matter, it displays most unseemly acrimony on both sides. I only observe one fact worthy of being noted; and that is, the supposition of M. Renaud, of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, that the poem belongs to the eleventh, and not, as very many literary antiquaries have supposed, to the twelfth century. M. Renaud is a great authority on this subject, as he has for years occupied himself in making researches respecting the invasions of the Saracens into Spain and France; and it was in fighting against them, it may be remembered, that Roland, the hero of the poem, supposed to be the nephew of Charlemagne, was slain at the celebrated battle of Roncevaux. M. Renaud gives various reasons for his opinion, derived partly from geographical and historical facts, and partly from a minute comparison of the mœurs, costumes, weapons, &c. of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. 'Roland's Chanson' has always enjoyed an extraordinary popularity in France, and it has been made the burden of songs which have been handed down from generation to generation as a sort of historical inheritance. The original manuscript of the poem is, I believe, in one of the college libraries

published—a catalogue (it is called a dictionary) of the manuscripts and autographs stolen from the public libraries of France. The work will be of formidable dimensions, as the robberies, or rather wholesale pillagings, have been on such a gigantic scale as almost to surpass belief. Of late years in particular the dilapidations have been really appalling; the thieves, indeed, have dis-played such impudence, that they seem to have thought they were extremely generous in not taking all. And the worst of it is, they have robbed, not to gratify the burning passion of the collector, but from the vilest pecuniary motivesthey have stolen to sell. Thirty years ago no such thing as a sale of autographs was known in France. Within the last fourteen years there have been not fewer than ninety-five public sales, comprising 58,000 pieces, and perhaps threefold as many by private bargain. What more natural than to filch a few rare papers from the public libraries to enhance the value of different collections? Measures. however, have just been adopted for putting an end to this scandalous system; and it is hoped that the publication of the dictionary referred to will lead to the restoration of many a valuable document-originally stolen, but come by honest purchase into the hands of the present possessors. M. Arago has already publicly announced that he holds two valuable letters-one of Descartes, the other of Huygens, and that, though he came honestly by them, he will give them up, if it can

The first part of a curious work has just been

be proved that they were pilfered. It is, I hear, Madame de Lamartine (she is an English woman) who has translated her husband's 'History of the Restoration' for publication in London. The work here has excited a good deal of sensation-not much inferior in intensity, though not perhaps so widespread, as that which was caused by the famous Girondins. But though everybody admits that the book displays great dramatic power, and is as charming to read as a novel of Scott, nobody will grant for a moment that it is entitled to be considered a bond fide history. The distinguished author is now working hard on the second volume; and as he toils from twelve to fourteen hours a day—as he takes the least possible trouble in searching for facts, or ascertaining names and dates-and as, too, he scribbles with remarkable facility, it is probable that in a month, at the outside, he will have it completed, also that before the year's end the whole of the soidisant History will be before the public. I think you were informed some time back that he is to receive 8000l. for it—that is, 1000l. a volume.

Many months ago the worthy Parisians were a good deal startled by the announcement that means had been discovered of effecting instantaneous communication between the most distant parts of the world:-still more startled were they on being told that the modus operandi was-snails. It had been ascertained, it was said, that a peculiar magnetic sympathy existed between creatures of this species; and that in virtue of it any two, after being put into communication in a peculiar way, would, on being carried to any distance from each other, feel and express at the same identical moment the same sensation. Thus, it was alleged that if one of the snails were placed in an apparatus containing letters of the alphabet, it might, on being touched, be made to act on a needle pointing to a particular letter; whereupon the other snail, in a similar apparatus, would touch the needle pointing to the same letter—no matter whether that second apparatus were in the same room, or at a distance of five thousand leagues. A sort of public experiment was made of this extraordinary theory in Paris, and I remember giving a long account of it in the Literary Gazette at the time. Well—in the daily newspaper, La Presse, of yesterday-one of the leading journals of this city-there is an account of a repetition of the experiment, with, it is declared, perfect success. Two cases were on Sunday last placed one at each end of a large barn; in each there was a wheel; on each wheel a number of snails were placed, one by one, in vessels of a peculiar construction, and each snail was to act on a certain letter of the alphabet. The snails in case No. 1 at the top of the barn were made to mark the letters enfer, and the snails in case No. 2 at the bottom of the barn immediately indicated the same letters. There was no wire or any other direct communication between the two cases. The words Benoist and deus were marked letter by letter by the snails of one case, and repeated by those in the other:-an attempt to transmit the word tellus failed. Such is the almost incredible statement made to the public. I expect it will be laughed at in England: -but it comes to us under the moral sanction of two men who witnessed the alleged experiment, and who certainly are as little likely to be duped as any one-Victor Hugo and Emile de Girardin.

#### VARIETIES.

Her Majesty's Theatre. - On Tuesday another prima donna made her first appearance here—a lady of rank, and of considerable artistic fame in the Italian theatres. Madame Barbieri Nini comes with a good prestige; but for her own sake it is to be regretted she has chosen to finish her career before an English audience, at once the most goodhumoured and critical. The opera selected for her début was the Lucrezia Borgia, in which she sang the principal part of Lucrezia. Whatever may be the traditionary merits of Madame Barbieri Nini, as we now hear her she can only be said to possess the remains of a fine voice, still clear and true in the highest tones. She has considerable execution, though not after the most flowing and agreeable style of method, and sings with the confidence of her better days. But these defects of voice and style would have been overlooked had she shown that she possessed a knowledge of the arcana of the lyric art. In the final scene of the prologue her acting was pointless and vague, and her declamatory singing was marked by loudness and vulgarity of accent. What a contrast to this was the perof accent. What a contrast to this was the perfectly finished singing of Alboni in the part of Orsini, than which nothing could be more gently and tastefully treated. Lablache filled his old rôle of the Duke Alphonso with his usual prowess, and Gardoni was the Gennaro. On Thursday Alboni sang the part of Maria in the Figlia del Reggimento, and with the most delightful success. She dresses in the complete style of the vivandière, with trowsers and marching shoes à la militaire, and her drumming is truly exquisite; it gave the most complete finish to the character, and made the piece go off with gay and amusing piquancy. Her singing was charming and elegant, and alto-

gether the Maria must be considered one of her most pleasing and original impersonations.

Royal Italian Opera .- The performance of Rossini's Gazza Ladra, with Grisi as the Ninetta, can never fail to be a matter of great interest to the admirers of the florid luxuries of style-the exclusive domain where sings 'the Swan of Pesaro'-as well as to those who listen with delight, and bow with homage, to the spell that 'La Diva' of the lyric stage holds alone; for it is associated with her earliest successes, though Ninetta was not, as has been said, the part in which she first appeared, but a far inferior one, in an otherwise forgotten opera of Pacini's, Gli Arabi nelle Galle, performed May 12, 1832, at the King's Theatre. Since then what a lofty flight has Grisi held; -surrounded in her youth by a perfect constellation of vocal and lyrical genius, Pasta, Malibran, Catalani (for she sang in 1828), Sontag, Persiani, Donzelli, Rubini, Lablache, and Tamburini, she shone brightly with her natural gifts of voice and person, and from such fine examples selected her path of study, catching the 'sacred fire' and grandeur of Pasta, the passionate expression of Malibran, but touching everything with equal mastery and surpassing beauty of the voice. Some of Grisi's achievements, as her Norma, Semiramide, Lucrezia, and Valentin, are admitted to be without a rival in charmed tradition or strong reality. Her Ninetta is a delightful singing part, and she gives it a surprising character of joyous simplicity with the 'Di piacer,' and with equal truth its pathos in the 'Ebben per mia memoria;' but the part is not in her loftiest mood, however it may be pleasing and pathetic. Tamburini, in his old part of Fernando, reminds us that he made his first appearance in the same year as Grisi, in Dandini (Cenerentola); he still sings it effectively by the aid of his expressive acting. Ronconi's Podesta was an inimitable piece of character, a perfect delineation of the consequential old rascal, touched with all the odd tricks of habit and comicalities imaginable. Mario was able to sing the part of Giannetto, though his voice has not yet quite recovered its full quality of tone. Mdlle. Angri was the *Pippo*, and sang the favourite 'Tocchiamo beviamo' with great spirit.

Strand Theatre.—A smart little farce, by Mr.

Strand Theatre.—A smart little farce, by Mr. Angus B. Reach, was produced at this house on Monday, in which Miss Marshall, Mr. John Reeve, and Mr. Rogers are engaged in a lively rencontre at the top of The Shot Tower near Waterloo Bridge. The first is a lady of romantic taste and acquirements in search of excitement, the second is an amateur performer on the trombone, and the third is a raw countryman. The play was capitally acted, and excited a great deal of laughter; but it requires to be purged of a few vulgarities and stale jokes.

Cambrian Archaeological Association.—The fifth annual meeting will be held on the 20th, at Tenby, under the presidency of the Earl of Cawdor. Excursions will be made to Penally Church and Crosses; Ruined Houses at Penally and Lydstep; Camp; Manorbeer Church, Castle, and Cromlech; Hodgeston Church. Scotsborough House; Gum-freston Church; St. Florence Church; Carew Castle, Cross, and Church; Upton Castle and Church. Lamphey Palace and Church; Pembroke Castle and Churches; Monkton Priory; Pembroke Dockyard. Narberth and Llawhadden Castles; Castle Meherren and Camp, and to St. David's. An examination will be made of the Church, Domestic Remains, Castle, and Town Walls of Tenby; Priory and Early Inscribed Stone in Caldy, and a lecture on the Architectural History of the athedral will be given on the spot.

Autographs.—Some extremely interesting autographs have been sold during the past week by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson. Two letters of Marie Antoinette, the first written eight days after her arrest at Varennes, sold for 10l. 12s. 6d., and a document signed by Queen Mary, for 10l. 10s. Two letters of Mary of England sold for 8l. 6s., two of Catherine de Medicis for 10l. 18s., two of Marmontel, one addressed to Voltaire, 4l. 3s., two of Mirabeau, 3l. 15s., and a certificate signed by Molière, 10l. 5s. Eight letters of Nicholas Poussin

sold for 21*l.*\*17s., and one of James, Duke of Monmouth, five days before he was beheaded, 21*l.* 10s. A letter of Sir Isaac Newton, while master of the Mint, 7*l.* The autograph of Sir Walter Raleigh, 5*l.* 7s. A letter of Rembrandt, 10*l.*, A document bearing the seal and signature of Philip, the good Duke of Burgundy, 4*l.* 14s. 6d. A Life of Alexander the Great, occupying one-half of the page, the other half filled with closely written remarks by Napoleon, 4*l.* 7s., and an autograph of Richard III., 25*l.* At Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's, six lots of the correspondence of Garrick sold for 7*l.* 5s. A draft for sixty pounds, drawn by Goldsmith in favour of Garrick, and a promissory note of a hundred pounds of Sheridan's to Garrick, 3*l.* 16s. Five letters of Addison's, 5*l.* 19s., four letters of Steele's, 2*l.* 12s., and some papers relating to the Byron family, 21*l.* 

The Velasquez Portrait of Charles I .- Many persons will remember this fine portrait, which made its appearance three or four years back so mysteriously, and was exhibited in Bond-street. The story told was that the picture was bought at a sale in the country for a few shillings. The same picture has lately been the subject of a trial in the Scotch courts before Lord Cowan and a jury-a Mr. Snare, the possessor and exhibitor, claiming damages to the amount of 5000l. against the trustees of the late Earl of Fife, for having, through the sheriff-clerk, and by warrant from the sheriffsubstitute, taken possession of the picture, and prevented his exhibiting it from the 31st of January, 1849, when he exhibited it in Edinburgh, till the 17th March, when it was restored to Mr. Snare. The jury returned a verdict of damages for 1000l., irrespective of solatium, which they did not take into consideration. The trustees of Lord Fife allege that the picture was mentioned in a catalogue, prepared by the late Earl himself in the year 1807, of the pictures at Fife-house, Whitehall. In 1812, after the Earl's death, this house was sold, and the whole of the pictures and valuables were ordered to be sent to Duff-house, Banffshire, and other houses in Scotland; it is supposed that the picture was then abstracted. These circumstances, however, tend to clear up the question of who was the painter of the picture, a matter before of some uncertainty, as it was without pedigree.

Works of Frederick the Great.—The 16th, 17th, and 18th volumes of the complete works of this distinguished sovereign have just been published at Berlin. They are entirely occupied with his correspondence. There are 4000 letters written by him—two-thirds are in French, the other third, chiefly on military operations, are in German, and were addressed to his generals. The whole letters belong to the state archives. The edition of the great Frederick's works, now in course of publication, was undertaken by order of the present King of Prussia, and at his expense.

M. Dupaty, one of the forty French academicians, died a few days ago. He was one of the most obscure of that learned corps. His literary reputation, such as it was, was based almost exclusively on vaudevilles and on the libretti of comic operas. He was held in esteem in the days of Napoleon; but then literary distinction was very easily earned. The most notable event in the last twenty years of his life was being chosen (to his own great astonishment) an academician in preference to Victor Hugo, then at the height of his fame

The Lapland Giantess.—It is seldom that the subjects of exhibitions of this kind answer to their portraits. The showman's pictorial puff upon the outside of his van has long ceased to be regarded with anything like truthfulness. There is, however, no deception in the present instance. Curiosity lately induced us to take some country visitors in search of wonders to Saville House, Leicester Square, and a more remarkable specimen of humanity we never remember to have seen. Two Lapland women are there exhibited, equipped in the costume of their country—one an intelligent female of rather small stature, the other a verifable giantess of enormous limbs, exceeding seven honest feet in height, with hands truly colossal.

Space-measuring. - Imagine a railway from here to the sun. How many hours is the sun from us? Why, if we were to send a baby in an express train, going incessantly at a hundred miles an hour, without making any stoppages, the baby would grow to be a boy—the boy would grow to be a man—the man would grow old and die-without seeing the sun, for it is distant more than a hundred years from us. But what is this compared to Neptune's distance? Had Adam and Eve started by our railway at the creation, to go from Neptune to the sun, at the rate of fifty miles an hour, they would not have got there vet, for Neptune is more than six thousand years from the centre of our system. But we are getting into too large numbers again: we must have some swifter servant than a railway to measure space for us. Light will answer our purpose -for light travels from the sun to the earth in eight minutes. Eight minutes, then, counting by light, are equivalent to a hundred years of railway express speed! It would take about four hours to go from the sun to Neptune. Among the stars, we shall find that the nearest is three years off, counting by light .-Household Words.

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1816 - 1851.

THERE are some improvements introduced into this Edition, which it is presumed will be found useful.

The New Books of 1851 have been added, up to the time that each sheet passed through the press; the delay occasioned in publishing the Work has been caused by a desire to make it as correct as possible; and to incorporate all the alterations in price, &c., up to the date of publication.

The Titles in many instances have been made more intelligible. The Authors' names have also been more correctly defined and arranged.

Works published in Series, such as "Lardner's Cyclopædia," "Bohn's Libraries," &c., although still remaining under their respective heads, are now also Catalogued in the regular alphabet throughout, so that those who do not remember in what Series any particular book was published, will be able to find it without trouble.

The Dates of Works relating to Voyages and Travels, as well as Statutes, Law Reports, &c., are now inserted.

In long alphabets, such as Jones, Smith, Taylor, Williams, Wilson, considerable difficulty has existed in finding out titles when the Christian name is not known. To facilitate reference, a duplicate list of each, in one alphabet, will be found at the end of the Catalogue, arranged under the titles of the

In other respects the arrangement of the last Edition has been adhered to, but it will be observed that the present is printed on larger paper, and con-

tains nearly one-fourth more matter.

The Publisher recommends those who purchase the "London Catalogue of Books, 1816-51," to preserve it. Subsequent Editions will not embrace so long a period of years, and, as this book will not be reprinted, it will be well to bear in mind that the only correct record of books published some thirty-five years back, is to be found in the present edition.

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